

What You Need to Know to Get the Photos You Want



Susan Duncan

Pine Tree
High School
Longview, TX

sduncan@ptisd.org

Four Areas of Photography to Conquer



Technical Quality
Dramatic Appeal
Photo Composition
Color/Black and White

Technical Quality



Do not use muddy or
out of focus pictures



Make a pact with your
staff not to use poor
quality photos

EVER

If there is a choice
between stopping
action or sacrificing
lighting, remember
that lighting can be
adjusted in
Photoshop. Out of
focus is out of focus.



Technical
Quality

Technical Quality

Make sure camera settings are correct:

Always check ISO, Auto Focus, Picture-taking mode, f-stops, shutter speeds



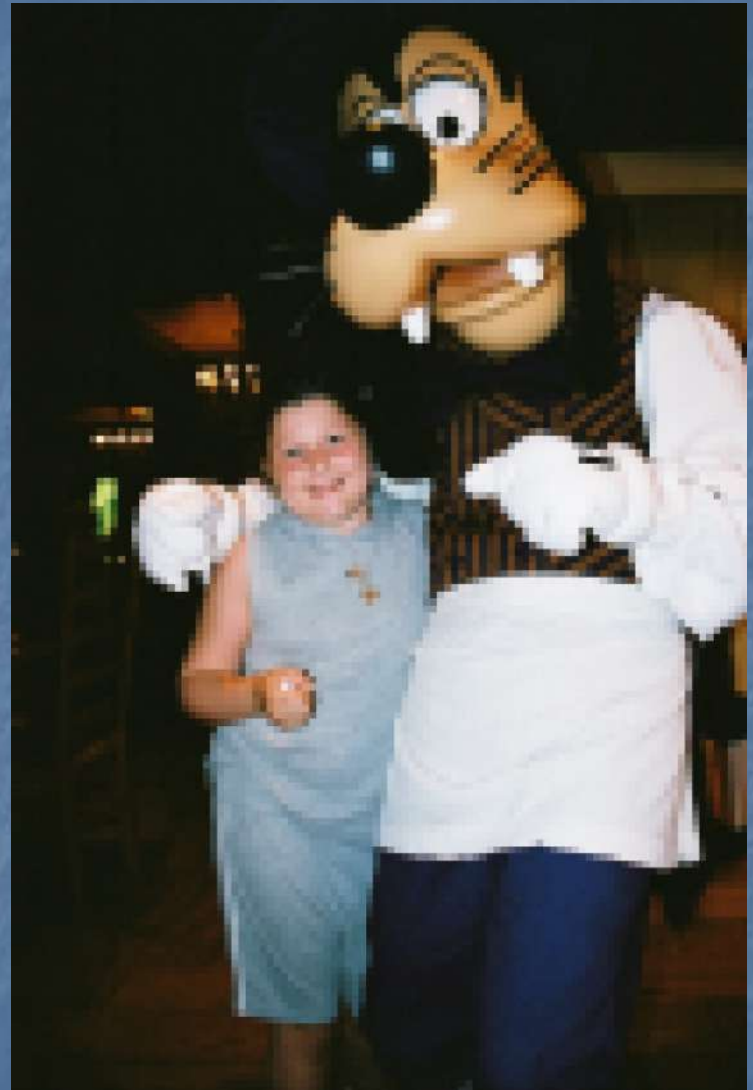


Technical Quality

Use a flash in low light situations because it can freeze the action even with a slower shutter speed. Flashes can freeze action up to a 32,000 of a second.

Technical Quality

Avoid enlarging a small
resolution photo too
much (pixels will begin
to show)



Technical Quality

Avoid photos with too much digital noise. The software program Noise Ninja can help.





Dramatic Appeal

WHAT IS IT?

- Tell a story with your photo
- Show action
- Display mood
- Moment of Impact

HOW DO I DO IT?



Dramatic Appeal

- HOW DO I DO IT?
- Get close
- Look for dramatic moments, moments of impact and the ball in the photograph





Dramatic Appeal

- Take pictures of faces
- Avoid POSED pictures. They make caption writing atrocious. Besides, they're boring.
- Little kids are always dramatic.

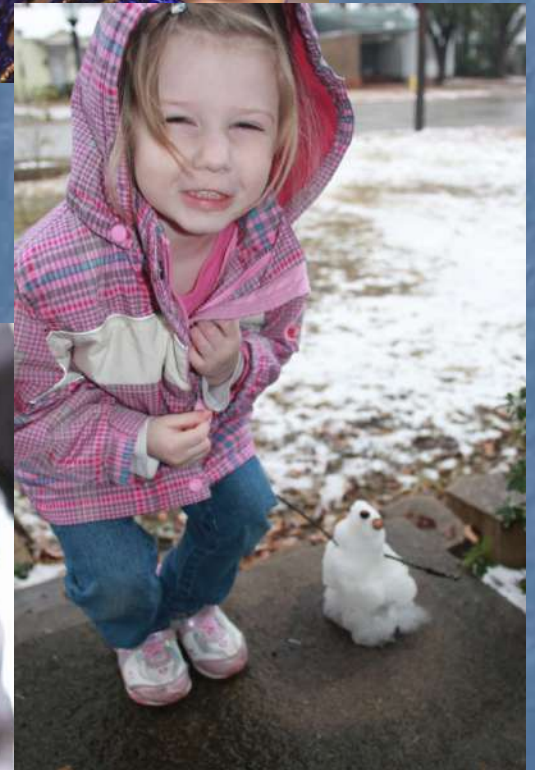




Photo Composition



- Rule of thirds
- Textures, patterns
- Leading lines
- Framing
- Move in CLOSE

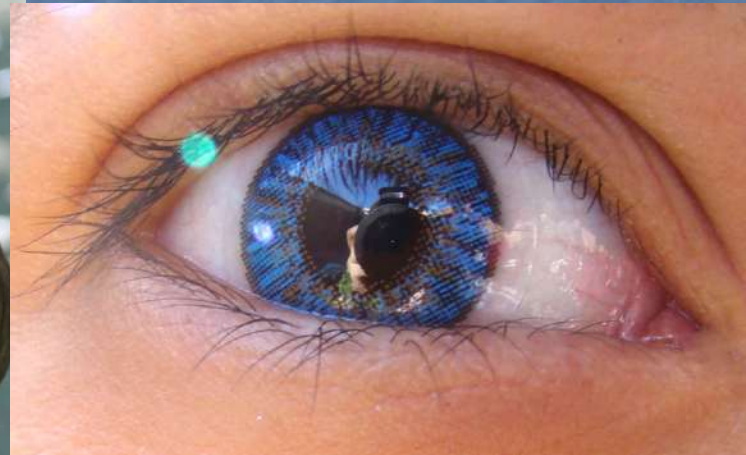
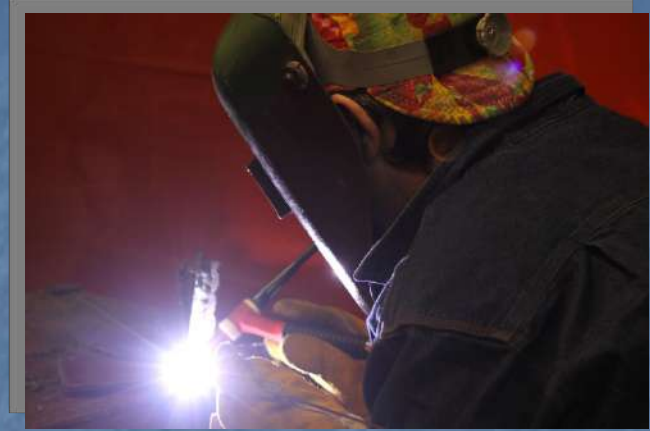


Photo Composition

- Creative lighting
- Interesting angles
- Background in focus?
- Strong center of interest





Cropping

- Crop closely- you don't always need a full-body picture
- Make the cropped image fit the shape of the box on the layout. Don't try to fit a vertical photo in a horizontal box.
- Take out dead space
- Follow rule of thirds
- On side profile shots, don't crop too close to the subject's face.



Tips

1. Shoot at 10 feet, 5 feet and 2 feet.
2. People are vertical, landscapes are horizontal.
3. Freeze action with flash or high shutter speeds.
4. Adjust f-stops to increase, decrease depth of field
5. Carry more CF cards and batteries than you think you need

Tips (cont')

6. Pay attention to what's in the background of your photo.
7. Shoot five times as many photos as you think you'll need.
8. Upload your photos to the server and clear the CF card immediately if possible.

Color vs. Black and White





You have POWER

(Use the force within you)

- You can boldly go where no crowd has gone before
- THINK about the activity. What happens behind the scenes? How can I show a different perspective?
- Follow not only the action on the field/court but all the hoopla that goes on in the stands
- Go backstage at all productions. Take crowd reaction shots also.
- Make friends with coaches, teachers, secretaries, administrators so that they allow you to boldly go where you need to go.



What went wrong?



What went wrong?



What went wrong?





What went
wrong?

How could it
have been
corrected?