



UNDERSTANDING LIGHT AND COMPOSITION TO IMPROVE YOUR IPHONE PHOTOS!



LIGHT

LOOK FOR EVEN LIGHTING

OPEN SHADE



GOLDEN HOUR



THE MAIN THING TO KEEP IN MIND IS TO HAVE LIGHT EVEN ACROSS YOUR SUBJECT. HARSH SHADOWS AND BRIGHT LIGHT CAN BE DISTRACTING. PLACE YOUR SUBJECT JUST OUT OF THE BRIGHT LIGHT. DURING GOLDEN HOUR USE THE SUN TO ENHANCE THE PHOTO. KEEP THE SUN JUST OUT OF THE FRAME TO AVOID IT BEING TOO BRIGHT.



HARSH LIGHT/MID-DAY SUN



DURING MID-DAY THE SUN CAN BE OVERPOWERING. KEEPING IN MIND THE IDEA OF EVEN LIGHTING WILL MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS. FRONT, SIDE, OR BACK LIGHT WORKS WELL.

INDOOR LIGHT

INDOOR LIGHT CAN BE DIFFICULT DEPENDING ON YOUR SPACE. FINDING A GOOD WINDOW AND TURNING OFF ALL OVERHEAD LIGHTS WILL GIVE YOU THE BEST RESULTS. IF YOUR PHOTOS ARE BLURRY, YOU NEED MORE LIGHT!

LOOK FOR NATURAL REFLECTORS. WHITE ROOMS WILL REFLECT LIGHT WELL. COLORED WALLS WILL REFLECT THAT COLOR LIGHT ONTO YOUR SUBJECT.



I PLACED HER RIGHT BY OUR GLASS DOOR FOR MAXIMUM LIGHT.

I TURNED OFF OVERHEAD LIGHTS AND THEN INCREASED EXPOSURE WHEN EDITING



BEST LIGHT INDOORS:
- INSIDE FRONT DOOR
- ON BED BY WINDOW
- FRONT PORCH
- OPEN GARAGE DOOR AND SET UP INSIDE GARAGE

THE "COLOR" OF LIGHT WILL CHANGE DEPENDING WHERE IT'S COMING FROM. OVERHEAD LIGHTS ARE OFTEN YELLOW AND UNFLATTERING. USING NATURAL LIGHT IS RECOMMENDED. USE FLASH ONLY WHEN NECESSARY!

COMPOSITION

KEEP BACKGROUND SIMPLE

WHEN SETTING UP A PHOTO KEEP IN MIND WHAT IS BEHIND YOUR SUBJECT. USE WALLS AND BLANK SPACES TO BRING ATTENTION TO YOUR MAIN SUBJECT. BUSY BACKGROUNDS CAN BE DISTRACTING. THE BACKDROP CAN ALSO BE USED TO ENHANCE YOUR PHOTO. WALLS WITH VINES, INTERESTING BRICK OR PAINT ALL CAN MAKE YOUR PHOTO MORE INTERESTING.



USE BACKGROUND TO FRAME YOUR SUBJECT



MY FAVORITE WAY TO MAKE A PHOTO MORE INTERESTING IS TO USE THE BACKGROUND TO ENHANCE AND DRAW THE EYE TO MY SUBJECT. LOOKING FOR DOORS OR OTHER WAYS TO "FRAME" YOUR SUBJECT IS A FUN EXERCISE WHEN YOU NEED A LITTLE INSPIRATION!

COMPOSITION

BE AWARE OF "LINES" AND KEEP THEM STRAIGHT



THERE IS ALMOST ALWAYS A LINE IN YOUR PHOTO AND PAYING ATTENTION TO WHETHER OR NOT IT'S STRAIGHT IS A GOOD PRACTICE TO GET INTO. THERE ARE EDITING TOOLS YOU CAN USE TO STRIAIGHTEN BUT IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE LINE IN THE PHOTO IT'S BEST TO BE SURE AHEAD OF TIME. TURN ON THE GRID FEATURE ON YOUR PHONE FOR EXTRA HELP!

EXAMPLE OF NOT BEING STRAIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE MOVED TO MY RIGHT TO HAVE ALL 4 WINDOW LINES BE STRAIGHT

"LEADING LINES CAN HELP DRAW THE EYE TO YOUR SUBJECT. YOU CAN ALSO FRAME YOUR SUBJECT WITH THE BACKDROP.



NEGATIVE SPACE

NEGATIVE SPACE IS A GREAT WAY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO SCENERY AND YOUR SUBJECT AT THE SAME TIME. I LOVE TO USE IT TO SHARE PERSPECTIVE AS WELL. MAKE SURE TO KEEP IN MIND THINGS LIKE LEADING LINES, STRAIGHT LINES, AND SIMPLE BACKGROUNDS AS WELL.



TROUBLESHOOTING



TOO BRIGHT LIGHT
MEANS YOUR KIDDO
HAS TO SQUINT. I
HAD HER LOOK DOWN
FOR THE NEXT SHOT



DAPPLED LIGHT
IS DISTRACTING.



BLURRY PHOTOS
ARE A RESULT OF
TOO LITTLE LIGHT.
EITHER MOVE CLOSER
TO BETTER LIGHT,
OR HOLD
HAND AS STILL AS
YOU CAN. (OR USE FLASH
IF ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY.)