

Studio portraits using natural light - due 4/15

You will be shooting this assignment using natural light. Remember that a portrait should **reveal or dramatize** something about the person.

Choose 3 of the following 6 light conditions to shoot in:

1. conventional portrait lighting: use direct sunlight

- shoot outdoors
- position model so that sun is at roughly the same position as your main light in studio would be

2. side lighting:

- outdoors sunny: late in day when sun is near horizon
- indoors: next to a large window, direct sun or indirect light

3. fully diffuse - this is easy

- shoot outdoors on an overcast day, in an open area
- light will be fully diffuse

4. silhouette

- light overcast or clear sky should be your background
- you should shoot these outdoors, for brighter light, but if you do shoot indoors, use a large window as background

5. rim lighting

- shoot outdoors on a sunny day, or indoors with window light
- position subject so that light is somewhat behind and above subject and lighting the edge of your subject
- if outdoors, make sure sun is not in camera frame or even close to it; keep it to side

6. top lighting

- can try this indoors w overhead artificial light, but make sure light level is bright enough

Helpful Hints - remember to vary camera viewpoint and pose of subject

1. viewpoint – mostly vertical compositions

- move in closer than you think
- some suggestions: straight on, from below, close up
- no full figures - this is too far away for portraits

2. pose of subject

- avoid straight on pose - mug shot, unless you are photographing a criminal
- keep it dynamic and expressive, not static

3. background - keep it as non-distracting as possible
- nothing close in background is best way to do this

4. choice of lens focal length
- you will probably want to zoom in a bit

Requirements:
- shoot and save at least 35 pictures

Hand in:
- 2 contact sheets, showing at least 3 lighting setups and 3 models
- 4 prints, showing 3 lighting setups and 2 models

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