Day 5:

Telling the Story
Taking Great Portraits
Taking Great Portraits

It’s all about people.
Which is a snapshot? A portrait?
Which is a snapshot? A portrait?
Which is a snapshot? A portrait?

Snapshots document fun events.
Which is a snapshot? A portrait?

Snapshots often have too many distracting elements.
Which is a snapshot? A portrait?

Portraits focus the eye on one person.
Which is a snapshot? A portrait?

Or one small group
People are the most important
People are the most important

- Capture the personality
People are the most important

- Capture the personality
- Show emotion
People are the most important

- Capture the personality
- Show emotion
- Tell a life story
People are the most important

- Capture the personality
- Show emotion
- Tell a life story
- Convey personality
People are the most important

- Capture the personality
- Show emotion
- Tell a life story
- Convey personality
- Worth a second look
People are the most important

- Capture the personality
- Show emotion
- Tell a life story
- Convey personality
- Worth a second look
- Frameable quality
Are portraits always posed?
Are portraits always posed?

- Portraits should look natural
Are portraits always posed?

- Portraits should look natural
- Keep people relaxed
Are portraits always posed?

- Portraits should look natural
- Keep people relaxed
- Try to capture the personality
What would you include in a portrait?
What would you include in a portrait?

Any person can be interesting.
What would you include in a portrait?

Great portraits never require “beautiful” people.
What would you include in a portrait?

Look for faces that tell a story.
What would you include in a portrait?

Take lots of pictures.
What would you include in a portrait?

Children rarely pose.
What would you include in a portrait?

Allow children to play naturally.
Look for portraits everywhere
Look for portraits everywhere

• Everyday scenes are portraits
Look for portraits everywhere

- Everyday scenes are portraits
- Look for outdoor locations
Look for portraits everywhere

• Everyday scenes are portraits
• Look for outdoor locations
• Pets often add interest
Always make the person the most important thing
Always make the person the most important thing

- Zoom in for a closer look
Always make the person the most important thing

- Zoom in for a closer look
  - Turn digital zoom off
Always make the person the most important thing

- Zoom in for a closer look
  — Turn digital zoom off
- Consider NOT filling the frame
Always make the person the most important thing

- Zoom in for a closer look
  — Turn digital zoom off
- Consider NOT filling the frame
- Beware of background distractions
Always make the person the most important thing

- Use simple backgrounds
Always make the person the most important thing

- Use simple backgrounds
  - Too much clutter distracts from the subject
Always make the person the most important thing

- Use simple backgrounds
  - Too much clutter distracts from the subject
  - Watch for “head growth”
Always make the person the most important thing

- Move the clutter or move your camera
Always make the person the most important thing

- Move the clutter or move your camera
- Help the subject ignore the camera
Always make the person the most important thing

- Move the clutter or move your camera
- Help the subject ignore the camera
- People are tall
Always make the person the most important thing

- Move the clutter or move your camera
- Help the subject ignore the camera
- People are tall
  - Consider vertical photographs
Always make the person the most important thing

• Beware of the “firing squad” photo
Always make the person the most important thing

- Beware of the “firing squad” photo
  - Keep people away from the wall
Always make the person the most important thing

Shoot from a kid’s eye level
Always make the person the most important thing

Remember hands or feet
Always make the person the most important thing

Rearrange background items
Always make the person the most important thing

Minimize background items
Always make the person the most important thing

- Position people in front of their work area, not behind it
Always make the person the most important thing

- Position people in front of their work area, not behind it
- To smile or not to smile?
Always make the person the most important thing

- Position people in front of their work area, not behind it
- To smile or not to smile?
- Make the session fun
Always make the person the most important thing

- Position people in front of their work area, not behind it
- To smile or not to smile?
- Make the session fun
- Look for deeper emotions

9/27/16 Day 5: Telling the Story

http://cahe.nmsu.edu/4h/photography
Should I use a flash?
Should I use a flash?

• A flash can be too artificial
Should I use a flash?

- A flash can be too artificial
- Take photos in well-lit areas
Should I use a flash?

• A flash can be too artificial
• Take photos in well lit areas
• Flash causes red-eye
Should I use a flash?

- A flash can be too artificial
- Take photos in well lit areas
- Flash causes red-eye
- Use rooms with big windows
Should I use a flash?

• A flash can be too artificial
• Take photos in well-lit areas
• Flash causes red-eye
• Use rooms with big windows
• Software removes red-eye
Get permission to take photos
Get permission to take photos

- Respect village life
Get permission to take photos

- Respect village life
- Yes or No?
Get permission to take photos

- Respect village life
- Yes or No?
- Take a genuine interest in people
Get permission to take photos

- Respect village life
- Yes or No?
- Take a genuine interest in people
- Ask permission using sign language
Fixing a portrait with software
Fixing a portrait with software

Darken the background
Fixing a portrait with software

Clone out distractions
Fixing a portrait with software

Remove background people
Look for ideas everywhere
Make an idea book
In summary:

• Remove distractions
In summary:

- Remove distractions
- Use natural lighting
In summary:

- Remove distractions
- Use natural lighting
- Take lots of photos
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