

Advanced Digital Photography: Storytelling

Study Guide

This is a 4-module course that goes into some more detail for the students who have already taken Digital Photography 1. This course in the Advanced Digital Photography series is all about visual storytelling and how to capture your audience through capturing emotion and real moments. Most modules are followed by quizzes and assignments that will help further their understanding of the course material and help them learn photography hands on. A dSLR camera is required for this course.

Module 1 – Finding a Story

- There were two types of storytelling mentioned in this module:
 - Literal Storytelling
 - Actual words written on a piece of paper
 - Visual Storytelling
 - A story told through pictures
- When telling a story with your camera, you do not have to only focus on big, rare, exciting events.
 - Sometimes the little moments can leave you with the best story to capture.
- Almost anything could be used to make a good visual story.
 - Examples:
 - A day at Disney
 - An afternoon at the beach
 - Dyeing Easter Eggs
 - A night at a concert
 - Christmas morning
- The simple, but most important key in storytelling is to creatively see a scene and capture it with your camera.

Module 2 – Elements of Storytelling

- The five elements of storytelling are:
 - Mood
 - Idea
 - Emotion
 - Narration
 - The Message
- The elements of storytelling basically just help to keep your story on track, helps the ensure that the images flow together, and makes your story successful and impactful.
- Mood

This document is intended for use by Techknow Training Studios Students/Parents only.

Unauthorized reproduction prohibited without written permission.

Copyright © 2017 Techknow Training Studios

- This can be achieved by playing around with the background, different apertures and/or blurring and different colors.
- Idea
 - This is kind of like the overall point you're wanting to get across.
 - Sometimes this can be challenging to figure out how you want to convey it, but once you figure out what you're wanting people to see through your image(s), it's easier.
- Emotion
 - This is important in all aspects of photography, not just storytelling.
 - BUT in storytelling, you have to be careful that your facial expressions convey the right emotions and fit what you're trying to portray.
- Narration
 - This is an established shot of what happened before the "story" began.
 - You can look at this like your "Once Upon a Time" shot.
 - It does not need to look magical and unrealistic, it's just what is setting up your shot/story.
- The Message
 - This sets a theme to your photos.
 - One way to set this is by keeping the colors consistent.
 - Example: I made all of my photos in this module black and white.

Module 3 – Tips & Tricks

- Your first photo needs to always draw the viewer(s) in, be compelling, and invite curiosity.
- Be careful that your photos are not redundant and repetitive.
- Do include different types of images.
 - Examples:
 - Wide Shots
 - Medium Shots
 - Detail Shots
 - Action Shots
 - Including different angles is good too.
 - Shooting from below your subject makes your subject appear bigger and more powerful.
 - Shooting from above your subject makes them appear smaller and more insignificant/insecure.
- Lighting is important (as always).
 - For more dramatic and sad photos, you will want to include more shadows and low light.
 - For more fun, energetic photos, you will want your colors more vibrant and more overexposed images.

This document is intended for use by Techknow Training Studios Students/Parents only.

Unauthorized reproduction prohibited without written permission.

Copyright © 2017 Techknow Training Studios

- Don't forget your composition rules.
 - Leading Lines
 - No Mergers
 - Framing
 - Rule of Thirds
 - Negative Space
 - This (and rule of thirds) can be useful in showing someone feeling isolated or alone.
- Captioning is sometimes useful in storytelling, but it is not always necessary in each (or any) photograph(s).
 - When/If you do choose to caption your photo ensure that the name of your subject and their location is correct.
 - You do not have to include what they are doing (if you want to leave that as more of a mystery or up for the viewer(s) to decide).

Module 4 – 6 Storytelling Shots

- There are 6 basic storytelling shots.
 - This does not mean that your visual story can only include 6 shots (because you can have a few of one kind if you want), but it just means that there are 6 basic shots that need to be included in a good story.
- 1. Introductory Shot
 - This introduces your story and should make your viewer(s) want to see more.
- 2. Detail Shot
 - This is where you capture all the little, important details of your story and zoom in on them.
 - Many times, you'll have more than one of these.
 - These usually help the viewer(s) feel like they are IN the story.
- 3. Portrait Shot
 - Make sure this is natural, don't ask your subject to look at you.
 - This helps the viewer(s) get to know the character(s) of your story.
- 4. Moment Shot
 - This captures the climax of your story and is often everyone's favorite shot.
- 5. End Shot
 - Here is where you wrap up your story and bring it to a close.
- 6. Get it all in One Shot
 - This, many times, could also be used as the introductory shot.
 - This shot often can stand alone and does not HAVE to fit with the overall theme or appearance of the rest.
 - Basically you are capturing everything we learned throughout the other 5 images (or so) in one single image, telling the entire story through that.

This document is intended for use by Techknow Training Studios Students/Parents only.

Unauthorized reproduction prohibited without written permission.

Copyright © 2017 Techknow Training Studios