Photography Tricks

Making good photography just a little bit better
Why do we take photos?
Why do we take photos?

To show people how to do things.
Why do we take photos?

To show people the impact of your work.
Why do we take photos?

To show people what you do at work.
Why do we take photos?

To show people how to spot problems.
What makes a good photo?
What keeps us from taking the best photos we can?
Equipment

Q: What’s the best camera to work with?

A: The one you have with you!
Know your camera

• Take time to get to know your camera.

• Read your instruction manual.

• Too boring? Lost it? Try a Magic Lantern guide.

• Play with the settings. Get comfortable changing them on the fly.
Composition

• The Rule of Thirds
Composition

• Perspective
  ▪ Squat down.
  ▪ Climb up on a chair.
  ▪ Find a new angle, and mix it up.
Composition

Potential Perspective Pitfalls

- Shooting people from a low angle can make them look larger, imposing and emphasizes double chins.

- Shooting from up high will make people look smaller, diminutive.

- Try to shoot faces from eye level if possible.
Composition

Backgrounds

- Be aware of your background.

- Messy backgrounds can ruin your photos or detract from your subject.

- Relevant backgrounds can help tell your story.
Composition

Light

- Get outside, if possible.
Composition

Light

- Get outside, if possible.
- Be careful with backlighting.
Composition

Light

- Get outside, if possible.
- Be careful with backlighting.
- Avoid the high-noon photo shoot.
Composition

Light

- Get outside, if possible.
- Be careful with backlighting.
- Avoid the high-noon photo shoot.
- Avoid tree cover and speckled shade.
Composition

Force your flash outside to ....

- Even out backlighting.
- Minimize shadows from mid-day light.
- Lessen speckled light under trees.
People, Animals and Groups

• Don’t be afraid to move your subjects.
• Take multiple shots.
People, Animals and Groups

• Don’t be afraid to move your subjects.
• Take multiple shots.
• Take portraits with at ¾ angle.
Head-on Portrait

Three-quarter portrait
People, Animals and Groups

• Don’t be afraid to move your subjects.
• Take multiple shots.
• Take portraits with at ¾ angle.
• Use props to help tell the story, suggest action.
People, Animals and Groups

• Don’t be afraid to move your subjects.
• Take multiple shots.
• Take portraits with at ¾ angle.
• Use props to help tell the story, suggest action.
• Look for action, but don’t depend on it.

(none of us are getting jobs at Sports Illustrated anytime soon)
People, Animals and Groups

• Don’t be afraid to move your subjects.
• Take multiple shots.
• Take portraits with at ¾ angle.
• Use props to help tell the story, suggest action.
• Look for action, but don’t depend on it.
  (none of us are getting jobs at Sports Illustrated anytime soon)
• Try to get everyone close to the same height.
Plants and Objects

• Get close, and fill your frame.
Plants and Objects

- Get close, and fill your frame.
- Look for a high contrast background.
  (consider a backdrop clothe and clothes pins)
Plants and Objects

• Get close, and fill your frame.
• Look for a high contrast background.
  (consider a backdrop clothe and clothes pins)
• Try lots of angles.
Plants and Objects

• Get close, and fill your frame.
• Look for a high contrast background.
  (consider a backdrop clothe and clothes pins)
• Try lots of angles.
• Don’t be afraid to move your subject.
Image Size
Image Size
FIELD TRIP

Send photos to jmerritt@uga.edu