



Nature

- Know your subject & its habits.
- Hide behind something.
- Use a long (zoom) lens.
- Pay attention to the light.
- Get down to eye level.
- Focus on the eyes.
- Isolate by zooming, or include the subject's natural environment.
- If an animal is moving, leave space ahead of it.
- Leave things as you found them.
- Be patient!
- Practice on your pets.
- Get close-ups, too.



Night

- Be still! Any movement could cause blur; hold your breath while you snap.
- Use a tripod, or stable surface.
- This is a great time to try to capture motion.
- Depth of field is important.
- Bring a flashlight for select lighting.
- Use a wide aperture (e.g. f/4.0 or lower).
- Use a slow shutter speed (less than 1/40 sec.).
- Scenes with some light (streetlights, sunsets...) will be easier to capture.



Close-Up

- Focus on just part of an object.
- Try blurring something in the foreground.
- Notice shape, lines and texture.
- Try to create an abstract composition.
- More light is better—use available light or flash.
- Get as close as possible or use a macro or zoom lens.
- Isolate your subject.
- Fill your frame.
- Try a unique angle.
- Use available materials for a background.



Portrait

- Focus on the eyes.
- Try a unique angle.
- Candid's can be creative.
- Simple backgrounds are usually better.
- Close-ups are more intimate.
- Lighting is crucial; notice where the shadows fall, especially on faces.
- Unless it is intentional, be careful not to crop part of a person's head.
- Pay attention to what will appear at the edges of the photo.
- B&W is great for portraits.

SNAP Your Finger Tips



Camera Tips You Can Take With You

Second Edition

by Dawn Blanchard



Black & White

- Look for contrast.
- Pay attention to shape and form.
- Notice the amount and direction of light.
- Shadows and highlights (darker/lighter areas) will be more obvious in b&w.
- Medium-toned colours will be medium gray; dark colours will appear more black; light colours will be light gray.
- Texture makes a great subject
- Shoot in colour, then convert to b&w later.



Still Life

- Simplicity is key.
- Plan carefully.
- Tell a story or convey a mood.
- Pay attention to every detail.
- Control your lighting.
- Use available items for backgrounds.
- Use everyday objects—around the house or find them in yard sales.
- Photograph items that have meaning to you.
- Combine unexpected items.
- Experiment with different compositions.
- Try time-lapse photos.



*Creative Tips

- Keep it simple: Less is more!
- Get as close as you can.
- Notice the background.
- Learn the rules, then try your own thing.
- Try new angles.
- Think before you shoot!
- Practice seeing possibilities everywhere.
- Good light is essential.
- Capture the unexpected.
- Never leave home without your camera!



Happy Snapping!

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Landscape

- The best light is in the early morning and early evening.
- Fill your frame: Every detail counts.
- Create depth by including a foreground detail.
- Choose a point of interest, such as a tree, a building, or even a silhouette.
- Shoot in "bad" weather (just be sure to protect your camera!).
- Pay attention to the sky.
- Use a wide angle lens.
- Make sure the horizon is straight; place it one third up or one third down.