



HS Digital Media Production/ Advanced Digital Media Production

Tuesday, May 5, 2020



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Overall Lesson: Photojournalism

Sub lesson for Tuesday, May 5: Basic Rules of Photojournalism - Getting Close to Subject, Using Angles

Learning Target:

Students will understand how getting closer to subjects and using a variety of angles helps improve the quality and audience engagement and enjoyment of their photos.



Opening Activity

- Take a picture with your cell phone of an object in your house that's a few feet away from you. Then, without moving closer, zoom in on the object with your phone camera and take another picture. Hold onto both photos. We'll come back to them later.



Photojournalism Review

- **Photojournalism**: the art or practice of communicating news by photographs *(Source: dictionary.com)*
 - Photojournalism is about telling stories through photos and captions
 - “Journalism” is part of the word for a reason: photojournalists are still journalists
 - This means they need to be observant, pay attention to details, ask questions and, in general, do what all journalists do
 - Taking photos is **not** a photojournalists’ only responsibility



Photojournalism Review

- Basic “Rules” of Photojournalism
 - Use the Rule of 3rds
 - **Get close to your subject**
 - **Walk instead of zoom**
 - **Use angles**
 - Leave space within the frame
 - Balance

Bold indicates what we’re going to focus on today

Photojournalism Lesson

- Close to Subject, Walk Don't Zoom, Using Angles

- **Get close to your subject**
 - *Avoid taking shots of anything far away*
 - Eliminate distractions in background



These photos are immensely more interesting, because the subject is closer to the camera. Plus, it would be challenging to get these shots without being close.

Photojournalism Lesson

- Close to Subject, Walk Don't Zoom, Using Angles

- **Get close to your subject**
 - Avoid taking shots of anything far away
 - ***Eliminate distractions in background***



Look at each of these side-by-side photos. You can see how the focus of each becomes clearer and easier to identify - not to mention the fact that the closer photos are just more interesting and pleasing to the eye.

Photojournalism Lesson

- Close to Subject, Walk Don't Zoom, Using Angles

- **Get close to your subject**
 - Avoid taking shots of anything far away
 - Eliminate distractions in background



Here you can see the progression of a photographer getting closer to his/her subject. The photo becomes more interesting as you get closer. Plus, you eliminate distractions in the background that can pull attention away from the intended subject for longer than the photographer would likely prefer.



Photojournalism Lesson

- Close to Subject, Walk Don't Zoom, Using Angles

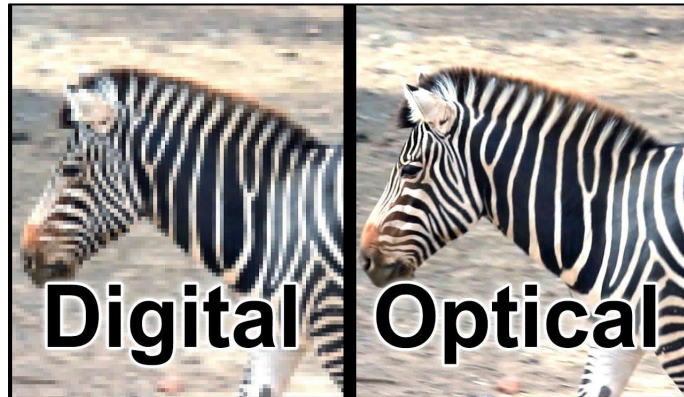
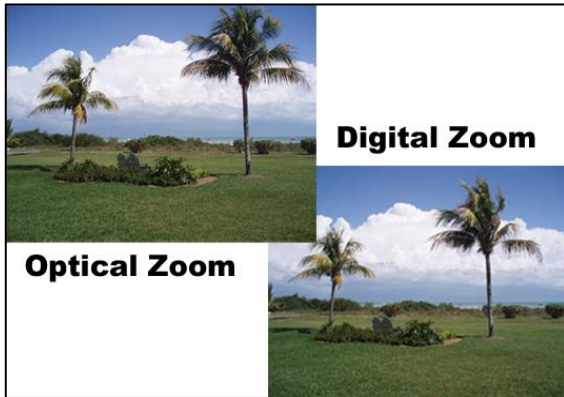
- Walk instead of zoom

- This simply comes down to picture quality
 - There is often a decrease in image resolution when you zoom - especially if your camera has a digital zoom
 - 2 types of zoom for a camera:
 - Digital zoom - the camera uses software to artificially enlarge the subject of the photo, increasing the pixel size which decreases the resolution (image quality)
 - Optical zoom - the camera uses its lenses to enlarge the subject, then takes the picture at full resolution
- Regardless of how good your lens happens to be, every zoom has its limits, hence walking closer to your subject rather than zooming

Photojournalism Lesson

- Close to Subject, Walk Don't Zoom, Using Angles

- Walk instead of zoom - Examples



In each of these examples, you can see how different zooms affect the picture quality. In the picture of the zebra, you can see how even the optical zoom is not as clear as the photographer probably would have liked, which is why closer to the subject is better.



Photojournalism Lesson

- Close to Subject, Walk Don't Zoom, Using Angles

- **Use angles**

- High up looking down / Down looking up / Left to right / etc.
- Increases the interest and variety in photos, and can even improve the detail visible in them

Photojournalism Lesson

- Close to Subject, Walk Don't Zoom, Using Angles

- Use angles



You can see how these photos are made more interesting simply by changing the angle. In each pair, the photo on the left was shot from head-on. The photo on the right is taken from the right side looking back to the left to capture the subject.



Activity #1

- Go back to the 2 photos you took with your phone earlier and analyze them.
 - Compare the picture quality of the first one with the one in which you zoomed in. Is there noticeable deterioration in the resolution?
 - Did you take either photo from an angle that made it more dynamic and interesting?



Activity #2

- Using your phone, take **3 different** photos of **4 objects** (*for a total of 12 photos*) around your house and/or outside making sure to get close to the subject by walking instead of zooming and using a variety of angles for each.



Additional Resources

- [What You Need to Know About Zooming](#)
- [Understand Zoom Lenses](#)
- [What Is Optical Zoom? And Can Smartphones Actually Achieve It?](#)
- [People and Portrait Photography Tips](#)
- [How to Make Your Photos More Creative Using Camera Angles](#)
- [10 Top Ways To Use Different Angles In Your Photography](#)