

the basics of
natural light *photography*

by: nichole lauren
photography



you
need to
know



*It's like your own personal cheatsheet on
manual mode camera settings!*

aperture:

how big the opening is in the lens
diaphragm to let light in
large number means small opening

iso:

how sensitive the camera is to light
use lower numbers for outside day-
light and higher numbers indoors



white balance:

the relative warmth or coolness of the white
light in the image
measured in kelvin & higher number means a
warmer image

shutter speed:

how long the camera's sensor is exposed to
light
use faster shutter speeds when there's lots
of light or movement

5 steps to the *perfect shot*

1. Think about your goal.

What are you trying to accentuate? If you want to focus on someone's face and blur the background, use a prime lens or get closer to your subject. Get on the little kid's level!

2. You're lighting situation is key.

Before you even start, adjust your settings according to your lighting and you'll pretty much be able to leave them the same unless you change to a different spot or lighting.



3. Consider the time of day.

The best time to shoot is either around sunrise or sunset. When the sun is directly overhead, run for cover in the shade!. 90 minutes before sunset is rightfully called "the golden hour" and is ideal.

4. Remember that location matters!

Foregrounds from trees or foliage are lovely, but blotchy light spots on faces from them are not. Take into account what is surrounding you and how it's affecting the lighting on your subjects.

5. Make your settings work together for you.

No one setting is going to give you the perfect shot. Instead, experiment with how your settings play out together and figure out what works best!

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