

Guidelines for better photos

1. Make sure your film is loaded correctly, your batteries are fresh, and your flash is working.
2. The first picture of every roll of film must be of your name.
3. Control the technical aspects of your photo.
 - Focus: Aim for the main subject—the center of interest needs to be in focus; other areas need not be.
 - Lighting: Be sure of adequate light, but watch out for glare or backlighting.
4. Your camera should become an appendage. If you don't have it with you all the time, you will miss the best shots. The best pictures are spontaneous.
5. Pay attention to timing. Good photos seem to catch their subjects at a defining second that makes the shot say more. Be patient, be prepared, and wait for a good shot.
6. Avoid posed photos—always try to find a candid shot. Try to help subjects feel relaxed and look natural, not stiffly posed nor staring directly into the camera. Show willingness to take time and make the picture right.
7. Don't take pictures of the same people. Do not take pictures of only your friends and classmates. Don't be afraid to approach people you do not know.
8. Improve a photo's composition by moving yourself and your camera to try varying angles, as well as by rearranging your subject. Don't stay in one place—move around.
9. Fill the frame. If you don't have a telephoto or zoom lens, move closer.
10. Concentrate on a center of interest. Don't take pictures of large groups or wide landscapes — close in on one to three people per frame. Ask people to move out of the frame if they are creating clutter.
11. Do not take pictures of people's backs or partially blocked people. People are identifiable by their faces, not the backs of their heads.
12. Make sure moving objects are coming into, not out of, the picture.
13. Take both horizontal and vertical pictures. Yearbook pages need a variety of shapes and sizes.
14. Don't be afraid to be creative. Try to make your photographs a work of art, not just a snapshot.
15. Remember, what you see in the viewfinder is what you get. If you don't like what you see, don't take the picture.