

# Pre-visualization

“Pre-visualization” means to see the image you wish to create before you shoot it .

Most photographers don't pre-visualize for a number of reasons:

- a) they have never considered it possible,
- b) they are unsure of how to obtain the image they want even if they could describe it because they are uncertain about the effects of the aperture, the shutter speed, the lighting, the grain size, the contrast, etc.,
- c) they are unsure of what they want as their final image, or simply
- d) previous efforts to create an image that had been previsualized had been unsuccessful so their confidence was low

How might you learn to effectively pre-visualize? Begin with a few simple exercises.

Try imagining how you would like a particular photograph to look and ask yourself questions that will create for you the image you desire.

How much depth-of-field would you like surrounding the focal point?

Depth-of-field is controlled by the lens' aperture/f- stop. Small f/numbers such as f/2 or f/2.8 provide very little depth-of-field (d-o-f) which thus places a great deal of emphasis on the primary focal point. Large f/numbers such as f/16 or f/22 are better for landscapes and architecture because there is a very large array of sharp objects due to the small controlled aperture opening. Remember also that 1/3 of your depth-of-field is in front of your focal point and 2/3 of it is behind your focal point.

How might I control the blur of the subject in my photograph?

Shutter speeds control blur due to subject motion. Fast shutter speeds (125th and faster) are more likely to freeze the action of a moving subject while slower speeds will result in some movement of the subject and a corresponding amount of blur. Use of a flash will almost assure the photographer of a “frozen” image; but flash can travel only so far.