

## 2026 ASSIGNMENT EXPLANATIONS

March: Motion Blur - Yes, there are times when we intentionally want to blur an image to accentuate movement. This can take a couple of different forms: 1) subject is a streak of motion, but everything around it is in focus (accomplished by using a slow shutter speed and holding camera steady), or 2) the subject is in focus, but the background is blurred (accomplished by also using a slow shutter speed, but the camera follows the subject, called panning). Note: Motion blur effects should be created in camera and not with the aid of Photoshop blur tool or filter.



April: Minimalism - This style of photography emphasizes simplicity by focusing on a few essential elements, often using negative space and clean lines to create a calm and impactful image. The goal here is to strip away any unnecessary details, thereby letting the subject stand out clearly.



May: Still Life - This genre of photography aims to capture the beauty in simple, everyday objects. The photographer has great leeway in arranging inanimate objects, controlling light sources, and employing unique camera angles to create a compelling photo.

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June: Shoot from Low Perspective - Shooting from a low-angle gives a unique perspective of the world. Experimenting with extreme perspectives can flatter your subject or distort your subject's proportions. Also, low angles can result in the "Superman effect" where different perspectives of the same subject can create entirely different perceptions of their personality.



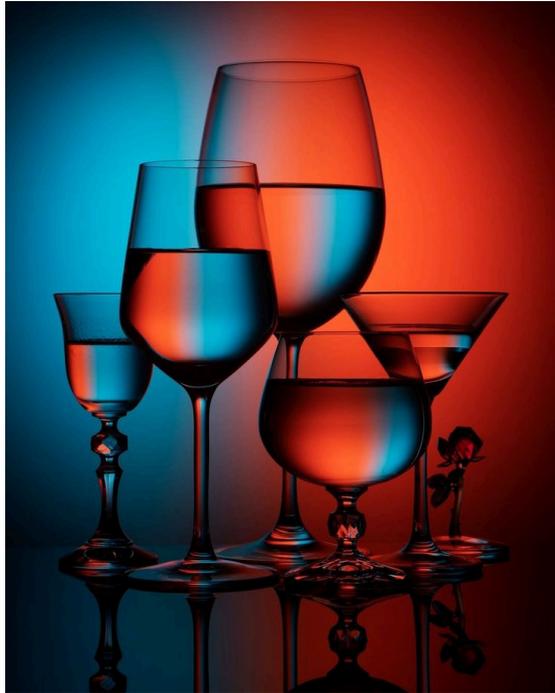
Here are a few tips for shooting at a low angle: Use your rear LSD screen, unless if you like crawling on the ground, use a wide angle lens, maintain a deep depth of field, ensure your camera is level, be careful to not blow out the sky, include a clear subject, and then shoot, review, repeat.

July: Golden Hour - This refers to the period of time (not necessarily an hour) shortly after sunrise and before sunset where the sunlight is softer and warmer. The soft light is diffused and reduces harsh shadows and highlights. This lighting makes it ideal for shooting portraits, enhanced landscapes, silhouettes, or creative backlighting effects.



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August: Glass - Check out your kitchen cupboard! Most likely you will find lots of potential subjects. Shooting glass can be challenging as glare and unwanted reflections are a common hazard. Here are a few tips for shooting glass: Make sure the glass is clean (we don't want pictures of your dirty dishes!), choose your background carefully (black or white are usually good options), do not point the light source directly at the glass, but instead illuminate the background to avoid reflections, use a long focal length, which reduces the chance of getting your camera's reflection in the glass, and use negative fill (black foam or matte blackboards on the sides of the subject) and possibly a reflective surface as the base.



September: Street Photography - This genre of photography captures candid moments of everyday life in public places, often featuring people and their interactions. It aims to document spontaneous events and the human experience without staged setups or posed subjects. Street photography does not necessarily mean it has to be photographed on a street, any public

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setting will do. Street photography is reactive, it focuses on curiosity and creative inquiry, often without a specific message. PSA guidelines, which we will be following, do not allow for staged subjects or planned events with hired subjects to photograph. *Techniques that add, relocate, replace, remove, or change any element in the original scene, except by cropping, are not permitted.* Alternations that are allowed include: selective lightening or darkening, sharpening, and restoration of original color to the scene. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots or digital noise and full conversion to grey-scale monochrome is allowed.



October: Music - Use your imagination. How does music influence your photography? This can include capturing musicians and performances that showcase the energy or atmosphere of live music events. What images are conjured in your mind when you hear songs? These can make powerful photographs.



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November: Color Pop and/or AI Creativity - This technique retains the subjects original color and converts the rest to black and white. Color popping can also include the use of editing software to alter images from full color to a mixture of color/black and white.



December: Hidden Details - These are subtle elements within an image that may not be immediately noticeable but can enhance the overall narrative and visual impact. These can include textures, patterns, and specific features that, when highlighted, create a more compelling and meaningful photograph.



In this image, the frost-covered headlight and delicate spider webs draw the viewer's attention to the subtle beauty in the iconic design of a vehicle as well as getting across the idea of winter in an indirect way.

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The intricate pattern of brickwork is the focus here, showing the craftsmanship involved in its creation and turning a mundane wall into a work of art.

