

Expressive Portrait Photography

Mr. Weisbrod

Objective: For this project, you are to create a photograph that illustrates a person's inner personality. Through the use of one photograph, you will illustrate who your subject is, and express things of an intangible nature on film.

This is not the easiest concept: To bring unspoken and un-touchable item into a piece of art is very difficult. With portraiture, the best way to do this is by very carefully controlling *both* the subject and the environment.

- 1) **Lighting:** the type of lighting you have on your subject will say something about it. If the light is soft and glamorous, then the model will look and feel like one type of person. If the lighting is extremely harsh and has a lot of contrast, they will look like another kind of person. Are there any features of their face/body that are in the shadows? This will also create a feeling about the person.
- 2) **Clothing:** What is the model wearing? What accessories do they have on them that add to their personality? What would a polka-dot dress say about the model's personality? What if they were wearing polka-dots and stripes together? What if the model is a man and his shirt is un-tucked?
- 3) **Background:** Where is the person? Are they in a library? What does this say about the person? Are they in the city? Or is the background meant to be plain, so that the only thing we focus on is the subject? What does that say about the model?
- 4) **Posture:** How is the person sitting? How are their hands positioned? Does a certain body posture make them look insecure, or angry, or aggressive?
- 5) **Composition:** Where is the subject in the frame? If they are in the center of the frame, what does that say about the subject? If they are off to the side, how does this change the meaning?
- 6) **Camera POV:** If the camera is at eye level, we are generally equal to the subject. What if the camera is below the subject, or above it? How does it change the viewer's opinion of the model?
- 7) **Props:** What other objects are in the photograph that give us clues to who this person is, what they are feeling, what they do, and what is important to them.

You need to photograph no more than 2 persons with a total minimum of 120 pictures. (If you photograph more than 120 photographs, you can move on to other people.) Your model must be as old or older than you (absolutely NO children or pets, sorry), and **10 extra bonus points will be given for models over the age of 50.**

You do not need to bracket with this assignment, unless you are unsure of your lighting, or think your camera may be not functioning correctly.