

PHOTOGRAPHY VOCABULARY



- 1. APERTURE** The opening in a photographic lens that admits light. The shutter speed determines how long light hits the camera's sensor. The aperture determines how much light gets through.
- 2. CANDID PHOTO** An action photo that tells a story or captures a moment. With the exception of group pictures or individual mug shots, yearbook photos are candid photos.
- 3. CENTER OF INTEREST** The subject of a photo.
- 4. CROPPING** Eliminating excess content to leave only the area of the picture you would like reproduced in the yearbook.
- 5. DOMINANT PHOTO** The largest, most dynamic photo on a spread. Typically, the dominant photo is two to two-and-a-half times larger than any other photo on the spread.
- 6. DEPTH OF FIELD** The distance in front and behind the subject of a photo that is in acceptable focus, the zone of sharpest focus in an image.
- 7. ENTERPRISE PHOTOGRAPHY** To walk around looking for interesting candid subjects or events to shoot.
- 8. FRAMING** To surround or frame the center of interest with another object (for example, a doorway) to attract the audience's attention to the primary subject of the photo.
- 9. ISO** The number that indicates sensitivity to light. The higher the number, the less light you need, BUT the noisier (grainier) the image may appear.
- 10. LEADING LINES** Lines the eye follows in a photograph, particularly lines running from the foreground to the background.
- 11. MEGAPIXEL** A unit equal to one million pixels. A term used to describe the number of pixels a camera sensor can capture; the more pixels in an image, the higher the potential resolution of that image when printed.
- 12. MUG SHOT** A straightforward head-and-shoulders shot.
- 13. PHOTO COMPOSITION** The arrangement of objects in a photograph.
- 14. PHOTO OP (OPPORTUNITY)** A staged event, usually a pep rally or other official school function.
- 15. RESOLUTION** Measured in pixels per inch (ppi), resolution determines the quality of detail in an image. It refers to the number of pixels per inch in the image at the desired print size. The more pixels per inch, the greater the detail. An image with low resolution, 72 ppi for example, will not reproduce well in a yearbook. A resolution of 300 ppi is recommended for optimal print quality.
- 16. SD CARD** Digital image storage device.
- 17. SELECTIVE FOCUS** The technique in which the subject of a photograph is in sharp focus while elements around it are not. An object in sharp focus will be isolated from blurred surroundings.
- 18. SHUTTER SPEED** The measurement of how long the camera's shutter remains open as a picture is being taken. The aperture and the shutter speed together determine how much light hits the camera's sensor and for how long.



The PDF linked below provides info on photo composition along with a student worksheet and activity: herff.me/photo-composition.