



Portrait Photography

Photography

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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Photography is a great way to express your creativity, and taking photos of people is no exception! This can be a great way to capture memories of friends and family, to take photos of yourself, and have fun creating art. This activity will create products that you can look back on and cherish memories made.

TIME

Like many creative activities, taking photos can be a quick activity, taking very little time, especially now that we have cell phones with cameras in them. You might want to spend lots of time taking pictures of your friends in different locations, or just take a couple photos in one place. You can spend anywhere from minutes to hours taking photos of animals.

MATERIALS

- Point-and-shoot camera (\$200+) (optional, if you have a phone camera or can borrow someone else's camera)
- Cellphone or tablet with a built-in camera (\$100+)
- Notebook and pencil/pen to write down your ideas for photos (\$5+)
- Water and snacks
- Different outfits for yourself or for your friends, if you'd like to do a longer photoshoot and add variety to the photos

INSTRUCTIONS

Include any instructions needed:

1. Plan a day to take some photos, or pull out your phone to capture candid photos of friends!
2. Consider the lighting! On a sunny day, it can be very tricky to take nice photos when the sun is exactly overhead, like around 12 PM. This is because the sun creates very harsh shadows on your subject's face. A great time to take photos is "Golden Hour" which is the hour before sunset or the hour after sunrise. It gives all your photos a warm, glowing lighting.



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3. Choose who you'd like to take photos of. Would you like to take photos of your friends, family or yourself? Maybe all of the above. Make sure to ask permission before you start snapping photos to ensure everyone is comfortable.
4. Once you know who your subject will be, start taking photos! Once you've taken a few, assess what you have to see if you like the kinds of shots you got.
5. Figure out whether you'd like to adjust where you are standing and how you hold the camera to get different photos.
6. If you're working with friends and want to get a photo of them smiling, try telling a joke or talking to them to get them a bit more comfortable in front of the camera.
7. To get some more ideas about the kinds of photos you want to take or the kinds of poses you'd like to suggest to your subjects, Google can be a great resource! Looking around for photos for inspiration can make it a lot easier to start taking photos.

RESOURCES

- [A written guide to taking portrait photos](#)
- [A video guide for taking portrait photos as a beginner](#)

SUPPORTS NEEDED

This activity can be done alone, with friends or family, or as a group activity. It can be a lot of fun to get together with friends to take photos together.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

Make sure that you get permission from people before taking their picture. Sometimes, people don't want their picture taken and asking them allows them to say no.