
Depth of Field and Movement Assignment for POINT AND SHOOT CAMERAS

If you have a point-and-shoot camera, you often cannot directly control your f-stops and shutter speeds, but you still have these features in your camera. Explore your menus and try all of the different settings. Keep notes.

Try the following with your camera. Please take 20-40 photographs. Check off the items you can do; make notes on those you cannot. Post questions in the compact camera forum of the discussion area.

DEPTH OF FIELD AND SELECTIVE FOCUS

1. Find a subject like a flower or vase or other smaller object. Place it in a brightly lit area with objects behind it (trees, flowers, some objects close and some object farther away. Go for depth.)
2. Set your camera at your wide-angle lens setting. Get as close as you can and take a photograph. How close can you be and still take the photograph. Make sure that you focus on your subject.
3. Take a photograph at your middle lens setting. Get as close as you can and take a photograph. How close can you be and still take the photograph. Make sure that you focus on your subject.
4. Take a photograph at your longest angle (telephoto) lens setting. Get as close as you can and take a photograph. How close can you be and still take the photograph. Make sure that you focus on your subject.
5. Repeat this for a few different subjects. What do you notice?
6. Move the subject to a place with low light. (This could be indoors or late in the day.) Repeat steps one to four.
7. Notice what happens when you hold your shutter release down half way. If it is a focus lock, experiment with focusing on something close and locking the focus and recomposing. Focus on something far away. What happens?
8. If you have a plus/minus button or if there is exposure compensation in your menus, experiment with taking a photograph at plus 2, plus 1, normal, minus 1 and minus 2.

MOVEMENT AND PANNING

9. Choose a fast moving subject. Photograph it on different settings with your camera.
10. Read about panning in your book. (Page 64). Try this with a few different subjects. Be sure to fill your frame with the subject you pan - - things too far away will not work.

AUTOMATIC SETTINGS

11. You likely have pictographs on your camera - - what do they mean. Studying your book and our textbook, try the different pictographs and see when they are helpful. Take notes and experiment.