Photography Lesson Ideas

<http://voices.yahoo.com/digital-photography-lessons-high-school-classes-11779016.html?cat=4>

Since nearly all high school students enjoy photography, and since it easily spans common core standards involving critical thinking, problem-solving, technology and 21st century careers, digital photography is here to stay. But if you're stuck on ideas for creative, challenging photography lessons that students will enjoy, here are a few suggestions. Whether you teach photography, graphic design, yearbook, or a general art survey, here are nine digital photography lessons for high school classes:

1. "Shape" photo scavenger hunt - Each student chooses a basic shape (circle, square, etc.), then searches for their shape with unique angles and in non-traditional locations (a circle found by photographing the bottom of a tipped-over bottle, etc.). A student's best images can be manipulated to a chosen color scheme, then printed and displayed together as one complete image.

2. "Words/letters" photo scavenger hunt - In this lesson, students begin by selecting a word, name, or the alphabet. They are not allowed to photograph pre-made letters, but must find letters by searching in unique locations with interesting shapes and angles (crossed picnic table legs could be an "X"). Printed images can be displayed side-by-side as one image.

3. "10 photography tips" lesson - After discussing good photography tips and techniques (composition, angles, the Rule of Thirds, framing, movement, etc.) with your high school classes, create a checklist, containing 10 photography tips or techniques students must show. Students take a photograph that successfully demonstrates the use of each tip.

4. "10 portraits" lesson - Challenge digital photography classes to create a series of ten portraits of a family member, friend or classmate, each showing a unique perspective. Create a checklist including techniques that students must show in their portrait series, such as a view from above, a view from below, a partially obscured portrait, etc.

5. Magazine cover - Students will choose a magazine, then study past cover photos for inspiration. In the style of their chosen magazine, students will shoot a new cover photo, then manipulate the image by adding text to make it a true "cover."

6. Stock photography lesson - Introduce students to the conceptual, business art of stock photography. Have students explore iStockPhoto for ideas, then brainstorm a variety of concepts to turn into a series of digital stock photos.

7. Food photography challenge - Look at various food magazines, and research food photography and lighting techniques from food stylists. Assign classes to take a series of digital food photos, from breakfast to dinner, pre-made snacks to homemade goodies.

8. Pet photography - Challenge high school classes to take a series of pet photos, after researching pet photography tips and techniques. Check out pet magazines for inspiration.

9. "Photojournalism: Our School in Pictures" - After learning about photojournalism and narrating a story through pictures, students seek to describe their school in a series of photojournalist images, telling various hidden stories and highlighting never-before-seen scenes in this challenging photography lesson.

If you're looking for superb digital photography examples to show your classes, check out National Geographic online; let students explore the website, find photographs that inspire them, and share their exciting finds with the class.