

Hudson Ingram

Shuttering Speeds

Through my capstone project, I was to learn about photography and how to get the most out of a picture using a camera. In the beginning, it was really hard to get my mentor to communicate with me due to her being extremely busy at the time, and then I went through a bit of an uncomfortable process waiting for a call with a fellow student's mother about interning, that didn't work out. This whole process made me a bit uneasy honestly, since I've never done anything like this before especially when it meant my grade was on the line.

The most difficult aspect of this experience would have to be timing. Timing is key to basically everything about photography and managing time schedules. The time of day or weather can affect the way that a photo comes from the camera. Depending whenever I would go into a park to photograph some landscape or nature, if it's a cloudy day, I may not be able to get my pictures bright enough in order to do some really fast shutter speeds. If it's say partially cloudy, it may be hard to set a right setting due to the mixture of lighting, and so you have to set it to aperture mode, and find the right balance. On the timetable of on top of it all, I almost never have time for it balancing school and home life, and with this was in the mix, I had to rewrite my entire schedule. I was not alone in this. My mentor had two kids to pick up right after our meetings, yet still made time for me. Which made me more appreciative of her doing all of this for me. I didn't expect to love getting into the manual settings of the camera, and learn to dislike the typical auto setting on my camera or phone. It has helped me develop more professional pictures. Contacting this person that I never met before made me more nervous than I thought that it was going to be. Although it may have been uncomfortable, I learned a lot from it. The main challenge came from finding a subject for my photos, since there weren't many things going on around me. Settling my TSA competition details with all of the confusions, and setting up the mentorship in the first place.

Eventually, I began my internship with professional photographer Dana Perkins to go through and set up a timeline for our meetings, and began the process of learning some of the basics of photography. She taught me a lot about my camera in the early weeks such as the settings my camera have, and had me set out to find 3 pictures that show my photographic style, afterwards she started to teach me about aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. Which is what you depend on to take a picture clearly and in focus depending on the camera's settings. Another thing that has really stuck with me, is how this experience has taught me, how to communicate with people that I've had basically no interaction with before for important things, like an internship or mentorship.

As a person, I think that I haven't really changed, I've loved photography for a long time, and the only thing I can think of that this experience has changed in me is how I've become more appreciative of the work that goes into creating a wonderful photograph. I wish that I could've had more time to learn this material, so I could go more in-depth with this mentorship. However, other than that I don't think I would change my capstone project hardly at all, if I had the option. The experience and the mentorship has been fantastic.