

Exercise: Silhouettes

Assignment: Photograph an object or person as a silhouette.

Goal: Make sure that the silhouetted figure/object makes sense as a silhouette, that it is a clear and distinct shape. In addition, be very aware of the negative space around your silhouette. A sky is often the best “negative space”.

Tips: This assignment is not easy. You need to ‘trick’ the camera into creating a blackened silhouette form. Using the digital camera, point the camera at the sky or sun and press the shutter half-way down until it beeps (like it is in focus). Without releasing your finger from the shutter button, re-align the camera into the composition that you want and then press the shutter button down fully to take the photograph.

If you are shooting directly into the sun, place the sun either behind your subject (the sun is blocked by your subject) OR arrange your composition so the sun shines through a hole in the subject (ie the bend in the man’s leg is an example).

Try to isolate your subject, unless other details work well with it. Also, attempt to have the full body or full object as a silhouette, rather than just a partial shape.

Good subjects include trees, people, playground equipment, machinery, or objects with holes in them that allow some light to shine through. Avoid plain and rectangular shapes like a building or door, since they don’t tend to produce interesting silhouettes.



Student photograph by Darrell Converse.

Have you submitted 5 photos of great subjects? "...trees, people, playground equipment, machinery, objects with holes that allow some light to show through..."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Are the silhouettes clear and distinct? (no body parts cut off, interesting shapes...)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Have you compositionally isolated your subjects? Is your composition well planned? Do you have the qualities of a "great photograph"? Have you compositionally considered the negative space as well as the positive space?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Does your image have high contrast? (ie "black against white sky": by pressing the shutter part-way and realigning your photograph.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Submitted On time and able to open google file the first time.

1 2 3 4 5

Total /45

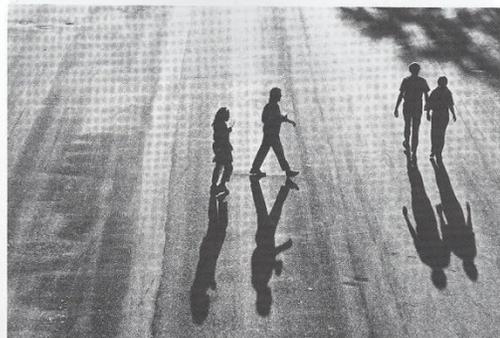
Name: _____

Date: _____

Put your FIVE images into google slides.
Put each image as a separate slide. Put your best images first.

"Share' link with tv43446@gotvdsb.ca and email to m.cameron@tvdsb.ca

Submit this sheet to me.



Student photograph by Lynne Mattiell.

Student photograph by Jay David Blumenfeld.