

PBL SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

SEEING THE LIGHT

It may be stating the obvious but light is essential for all photos. The word photography is derived from Greek roots: “photos” meaning “light” and “graphe” meaning “drawing.” Without light, there would be no photography. Light provides the illumination that we record in photos.

Knowing what kind of light is best for certain kinds of photos, including portraits, sunsets, silhouettes and landscapes is very important because your eyes don’t see the same thing as your camera. What looks good to your eye may not look so great through your camera’s viewfinder.

For good photos, you are going to need good light. What is good light? Good light gives the photo shape, depth, and makes it interesting. Outside light that you find during the “Golden Hour” is the best! It is found early in the day or right before sunset. This natural light is characterized by warm tones and bold shadows.

Bad light happens when you can not focus on bright colors and have no depth in your photos. This is the case when the sun is bright and high in the sky. The colors are great but lacks shadows for depth. It also is a problem when skies are overcast because the colors are flat during this time. Flash lighting also presents problems because you lose the shadows and toning.

Some tips to help out with lighting include:

- Turn off flash to avoid glare
- Shoot during morning or late afternoon
- Keep your camera steady-try a tripod
- Shoot in “burst” mode
- Use a headlamp/flashlight in the dark
- Use your focus/settings to adjust light
- Shoot in shade to avoid shadows
- If colors are not good, consider changing image to black & white
- Consider adding a light source
- Select a scene mode in your settings
- Add a flash diffuser

