

Photograph vs Snapshot

What's the difference?

Bellwork

1. What is a photograph?
2. What makes a photograph good?
3. What makes a photograph bad?

Discuss with your neighbors what you think of each, and be prepared to share.

Objective

Students will be able to:

- Define terminology
- Understand the differences between a Photograph and Snapshot
- Know which one is preferred in this class as well as in the real world

Vocabulary

Snapshot

A **snapshot** is a photograph that is taken spontaneously and quickly, most often without artistic or journalistic intent. Commonly seen as "imperfect" or amateurish—out of focus or poorly framed or composed.



Vocabulary

Photograph

A **photograph** is a well thought, composed, exposed and executed art form. It is pre-visualized and often contains meaning or concept.



The Differences Between the Two

Everyone knows what a snapshot is and what it usually looks like: Your Uncle Bob sitting by the pool, grinning at the camera.

A snapshot is a casual record of some event or person or object.

The main thing going through your mind when you look at a snapshot is a memory: “Oh, that’s what Uncle Bob used to look like with a mullet.”

It doesn’t matter if part of his head got cut off or if he’s slightly out of focus.

All that matters is that the picture is clear enough to preserve some memories.

The Difference Between the Two

A lot more goes into a true photograph to make it matter.

A photograph is(or should be):

- An artistic interpretation of an event or person or object.
- Its purpose is to tell the viewer—any viewer—something about its subject.
- It should show not just what the subject is, but what it is like.
- Finally, it should do so with impact and style.

To accomplish this, a photograph must be **composed**. All its elements must be selected and arranged to work together toward some unified effect.

Vocabulary

Composition

noun

1. the act of combining parts or elements to form a whole.
2. manner of being composed; structure:
 - i. This painting has an orderly composition.

Vocabulary

Produce

verb (used with object), pro·duced, pro·duc·ing.

1. to bring into existence by intellectual or creative ability:
 - i. to produce a great painting or photograph

The Main Difference

Between a snapshot and a photograph the defining trait is the care with which each is produced.

Taking a *snapshot* requires little more than pointing the camera in the right direction and clicking the shutter.

Taking a *photograph* requires paying attention to every detail within the frame, and getting all of them just right, before the shutter is clicked.

That's what composition is basically all about: **paying attention.**

How to Make a Good Photograph

No matter how interesting your subject may be, whether it be your sweet new ride to that millionth selfie you took this morning, you have not really photographed it until you have done the following:

- Placed the subject carefully within the frame
- Gotten rid of any distractors that will steal attention from your subject
- Made sure that all the various elements are working together
- Set the camera to the correct *aperture* and *shutter speed* for the effect you want

In a broad sense, the subject of a photograph is far less important than its composition. Absolutely anything can be photographed well—or poorly.

Photographer's Eye

The Photographer's Eye is the ability to see the potential for a strong picture wherever you are, then to organise the graphic elements into an effective, compelling composition.

Once you've begun seeing with a Photographer's Eye, you'll discover that there are wonderful images all around you —far more than you could ever hope to capture on film.

Whether you continue to practice photography or not, the way you look at the world around you will probably be changed forever.

Photography is an art of discovery. It is an exploration of the endless variety of *line, texture, shape, light, motion and perspective*—all the fundamental elements of composition.

Returning to Bellwork

What is the purpose of a snapshot?

What does a photograph require to make it not a snapshot?

Snapshot vs Photograph

Snapshots

- Taken spontaneously or quickly
- No artistic intent
- Out of focus or poorly framed
- Doesn't acknowledge the relationship between foreground + background
- Is taken at the aperture chosen by the camera
- Only interested in 'capturing' the moment
- Subjects often include events of everyday life (birthday parties, sunsets, children playing, etc)

Photographs

- Well thought out and executed
- Composed and exposed with thought
- Pre-visualization of how a scene will translate into a photo
- An interpretation of what is seen, thought or felt
- Responsible for the entire frame and all its contents
- Depth-of-field dictated by the photographers choice of aperture
- Subjects often include events of everyday life (birthday parties, sunsets, children playing, etc)



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Conclusion

In this class, we will always strive to create photographs, not snapshots.

Why do you think this lesson is important?

What do you need to keep in mind for this upcoming year to make sure you accomplish this?

How would you change the photo you took for your first challenge after going over this lesson?