

Shadows and Light

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How photographers see the world

Make a list of
things in this
room



You probably didn't include shadows.

Shadows can have VISUAL WEIGHT

Shadows can be as important or even more important than anything else in the photo.



Light can also have VISUAL WEIGHT

Just like shadows,
areas of pure light
can be just as
important as
anything else in the
photograph



Shadows can
reference
objects outside
of the frame

or
they can give
us more
information



Light can show us TEXTURE

Light can define
the edges,
folds,
and textures
of objects.



Light can define STRUCTURE

Light can define
the edges,
folds,
and textures
of objects.



Light can show DETAILS

What does light tell
us about what
happened to this
street?



Light can create a FOCAL POINT

Light can draw
attention to a certain
part of the
composition.



BACKLIGHT images can be dramatic

Sources of light
behind objects
can turn them
into silhouettes.



Use your LIGHT METER to create a silhouette

Point your camera at the light source behind your subject, and press the shutter button down halfway. Then focus and recompose if you want before you press the shutter button all the way down.



Your Assignment

Take two photos where shadows are the **most** important thing.

Make sure the shadows are of something with an interesting shape. Avoid a lumpy or shapeless shadow. Do not use a flash for this assignment. The best light source to use is the sun.

I want to look at your photos and think to myself “Wow, that's a photo about shadows and light!”, not “that's a photo with a small shadow in the corner that is barely noticeable.”