

# High-Key & Low Key Portrait Assignment

## Assignment:

- Take a series of High-Key and/or Low-Key Images
- Your series needs to include 3 images and can be any combination (3 high, 2 high & 1 low, 1 High & 2 Low, or 3 low)
- Edit each of your images so they have a similar feeling (see edits below).
- Post your images to your blog.
- Fill out the worksheet and rubric and turn it in.

## Shooting & Editing High Key images:

### *On the camera*

- Adjust the exposure to be 1-2 stops brighter in the meter.
- Shoot in Aperture Priority Mode
- Try many poses, remember high key is light, airy and happy.

### *In the computer*

- Crop your image to 8x10 horizontal or vertical - whatever is best for the image. Use the rule of thirds.
- Convert the image for smart filters
- Use the camera raw filter and maybe adjust the exposure, decrease the clarity (-10 to -20), & maybe adjust the color tone.
- Add a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer and desaturate the image a bit (-10 to -30)
- Add a curves adjustment to brighten the overall image slightly in the whites and darken the blacks.
- If you want the image to be black & white, add a black/white adjustment layer and choose the preset Maximum White.
- Group the layers, then duplicate and compress/rasterize to make any facial touch-ups.

## Shooting & Editing Low Key images:

### *On the camera*

- Adjust the exposure to be 0-1 stop darker in the meter.
- Shoot in Aperture Priority Mode
- Try many poses, remember low key is moody and dramatic.

### *In the computer*

- Crop your image to 8x10 horizontal or vertical - whatever is best for the image. Use the rule of thirds.
- Convert the image for smart filters
- Use the camera raw filter and maybe adjust the exposure, decrease the clarity (-10 to -20), & maybe deepen the shadows and the blacks.
- Add a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer and desaturate the image a bit (-10 to -35)
- If you want the image to be black & white, add a black/white adjustment layer and choose the preset Green Filter.
- Group the layers, then duplicate and compress/rasterize to make any facial touch-ups.
- Add a vignette: Create a new layer and fill it with black, add a layer mask, use the gradient tool on radial gradient from white to black and create a hole in the mask, change the blend mode to multiply and adjust the opacity.

**Questions** (circle the most accurate response):

**name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. How is the technical quality?**

**per.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Focus:** Is the image in focus?

yes    no

**Exposure:** Is it too light or dark?

light    dark

Are there blown out or underexposed areas?

yes    no

Do you consistently have dark, moody photos?

yes    no

How was lighting?

Too much    Too little    Just right

How do the colors look?

Too bright    Too dark    Just right    N/A

**2. How's the composition?**

What principles of composition does the photo or photographer use (circle all that apply)?

Emphasis    Movement    Pattern    Rule of Thirds    Balance    Unity

Are the images cropped well?

yes    no    inconsistent

**3. How is the emotional appeal?**

What emotion do you feel when you look at the series? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the photographer connect with his subjects or do they look tense, posed or stilted?

connected well

tense & posed or stiff & unnatural

	10	8	7	5
Value	Photo shows a complete range of value from the whitest white to the darkest dark and every value in between.	Photo shows a good range of value from white to dark and every most values in between.	Photo shows a fair range of value from white to dark but missing many values in between.	Very little value range.
Elements of Composition & Balance	Great composition, uses the rule of thirds or places one eye just left or right of center peering into the frame.	Good composition, tries to use the rule of thirds and balance.	Fair composition, tries to use the rule of thirds or balance, but composition needs work.	Does not use balance and the rule of thirds.
Creativity & development of series	Great use of the medium to enhance your image and show the personality of your subject or story.	Good use of the medium to enhance your image and show the personality of your subject or story.	Fair use of the medium to enhance your image and show the personality of your subject or story.	Does not use Creativity and the medium effectively
Photoshop Skill	Photo editing enhances the overall look and feel of the image in a very positive way.	Photo editing enhances the look and feel of the image in a somewhat positive way.	Photo editing neither adds to nor detracts from the image.	Photo editing detracts from the overall look and feel of the image.
Use of time	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor