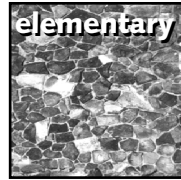


**LESSON TITLE:**  
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY



**ART TEACHER:**

Heidi O'Hanley  
Frank A. Brodnicki Elementary  
Indian Springs S.D. 109, Justice, IL

**GRADE LEVEL:** Elementary, Grade 5

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will demonstrate how to capture a compositional photo by using digital cameras. Students will also be able to describe (in writing) how they captured their photo.

**LESSON SUMMARY:** Inspired by Bethany Dhunjisha's works, students will be photographing outside in the school courtyard. Each photo is to meet one out of ten composition tips used by professional photographers. Students will also create a statements explaining their photo and how they captured their shots.

**STANDARDS:**

**Anchor Standard 5:** Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

**VA:Cr3.1.5:** Create artist statements using art vocabulary to describe personal choices made in art making.

**Anchor Standard 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

**VA:Cn10.1.5:** Apply formal and conceptual vocabularies of art and design to view surroundings in new ways through art making.

**TIME:** Three 40 minute sessions

**MATERIALS:** Digital Cameras, chromebooks, paper, clipboards, pencils

**NEW VOCABULARY:** Composition, Zoom, Rule of Thirds, Fill the Frame, Point of View, Focus



**PREPARATION:** First, gather as many digital cameras as you can from your school. Make sure you check to see if there are batteries that need to be charged or memory sticks that need to be cleared. Next, charge each digital camera battery and check the memory cards for space. Lastly, check to see if the space you wish to photograph is available at the time(s) you need to photograph with your class.

**SEQUENCE:**

**Day 1:** On the first day, students were introduced to the art of Bethany Dhunjisha. They viewed her artworks and read her statement. Compositional tips and camera use were discussed next, as well as the rules and expectations for behavior when visiting the school courtyard. Students were then brought to the courtyard and asked to take a total of 5-8 photos (using the composition tips just learned). With less cameras than students, they were placed in groups of 3-4 to share.

**Day 2:** Student were brought back to the courtyard and asked to complete their photos. For students who completed their photos, they were asked to create sketches of different objects found in the courtyard (ex. leaves, vegetables, insects, etc.). Prior to Day 3, the teacher will upload all photos onto Artsonia to prepare for artist statements.

**Day 3:** Students bring their chromebooks to class to work on their artist statements. They were asked to choose one photo (they felt was the best to represent their series of photos), and create an artist statement that describes their composition choices. After completing their statements, students copied and pasted their image and statement into a shared Google Slideshow to be printed out on cardstock for display.

**TWO ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS:**

1. Which composition did you use when taking your photo?
2. How would you have taken your photo differently?