Black on Black

Learning: How to use light and shadows to add separation and dimensions in your photos.

1. Take a shot with no lights.
2. Light the background only and take a shot of the whole scene.
3. Light the object only and take a shot of the whole scene.
4. Take various photos with the light shining from different vantage points on the object.
5. Compare the photos and see what looks the best.
6. Move the object closer and further away from the background as you light the scene. What changes?

White on White

Learning: Controlling highlights and subtle shadows to achieve detail and depth in bright scenes.

1. Take a photo with the main light source in the box. Review the photo to see if everything blends together.
2. Take a photo when blocking (removing) most of the light from the background. Try the same thing in reverse by blocking most of the light from the foreground items.
3. Take a photo where the exposure is set for the background. Use a small light source to light only foreground items.
4. Expose for the foreground items. Use a light source to light the background, if needed. Take a photo.

Black and White

Learning: How to use camera settings when dealing with high-contrast (very dark and very bright) elements.

1. Take a photo that is properly exposed for the black in the photo.
2. Then, take a photo that is properly exposed for the white in the photo.
3. Find camera settings that are between the two.
4. Again, expose for the whites in the photo, then use a small light source to light ONLY the black portions to better expose them.
5. Which worked best?

Modifying Light

Learning: Emphasizes that lighting is not just about illumination, but also about control and artistry.

Starting camera settings: Aperture Priority, f/5.6

1. Experiment using different light sources and angles on the subject.
2. Try warm (yellowish) vs cool light (blueish).
3. Try bouncing light with a reflector to fill in shadows.
4. Try using a diffuser to soften the light.

Camera Settings

Black on Black
White on White
Black and White

Manual

ISO – 800

Aperture – f/5.6

Shutter Speed – start at 1/200 sec

Modifying Light

Aperture Priority

Aperture – f/5.6

ISO – floating or 400

Shutter Speed – floating