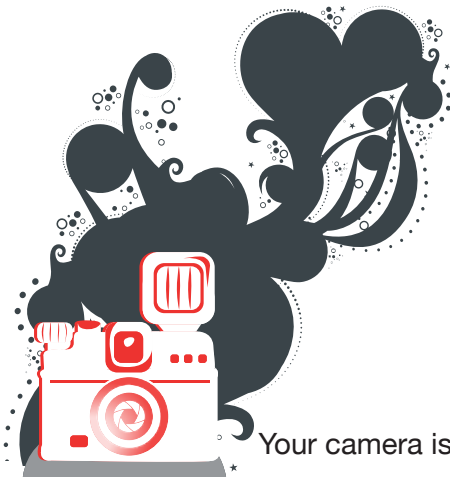


# Lesson 1

## Know your camera



Your camera is a tool, and you will get the most from it if you learn how to use it properly.

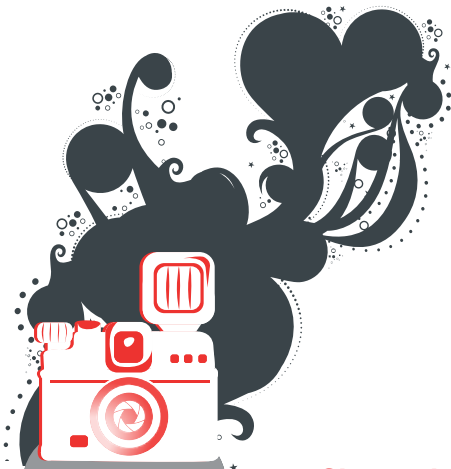
First, learn to keep it steady. Use your left hand to provide firm support under the camera body and the lens while you tuck your elbows close to your body. This position will help keep the camera still as you take a photo.

Next, review the manual that came with the camera or find it online. Look for the items listed here, find the controls related to them so you can practice using them when you take photos for your first assignment.

- **Image size** – This setting determines the number of pixels that will be in the image. The higher the pixel count of an image, the sharper it will be and the larger it can be, printed or displayed, without becoming distorted.
- **Image quality** – Use the highest image quality setting possible when making images for use in the yearbook.
- **Focusing** – Most digital cameras have auto focus. In some situations, such as low light, the automatic focus is too slow or not accurate. Switch to manual focus for quicker focusing and sharper images.
- **Camera light meter** – The meter works to provide the proper exposure for your image. It measures the light reflected off a subject and either sets the camera controls or indicates the control settings to accurately capture the image. If you can learn to read and understand your light meter, you'll make great strides in being in control of the images you're capturing for your yearbook.
- **Aperture** – This adjustable opening in the lens determines how much light enters the camera and hits the digital sensor, affecting exposure and overall image quality. It is represented by f-stop numbers. The smaller f-stop numbers (f/2, f/5.6) represent larger openings and less depth of field, while larger f-stop numbers (f/16, f/22) mean more depth of field. By selecting a small aperture, several areas of the image will have equal sharpness. With a larger aperture opening, the main subject will be sharper than other elements in the photo and will gain emphasis.
- **Shutter** – Like aperture, the shutter determines how long light is allowed to record on the sensor. Shutter speed numbers are whole numbers that represent fractions of a second, for example, shutter speeds of 60 and 125 mean the shutter will stay open 1/60th and 1/125th of a second. Dramatic sports photos that freeze the action of competition are made with faster shutter speeds. When slower shutter speeds are used to shoot moving subjects, the image blurs. The faster the subject moves, the faster the shutter speed required to stop the action.

# Lesson 1

## Know your camera



- **Shutter lag** – The delay between pressing the shutter button and when the image is taken – is the time your camera is taking to capture the image, download it to memory, and prepare for the next photo to be taken. The more assignments you shoot, the more practiced you'll be at capturing the decisive moment, which will help you not miss the shot due to shutter lag.

### Activity: Photo Scavenger Hunt

Before the next class period, either alone or in pairs, work with a digital camera you will be using for yearbook assignments. Take the images below. Use two different settings for each photo, and write down what the settings were to help you learn the best settings for certain images. Put your best two images of each on a thumb drive and bring to class to share.

- a) Yourself
- b) Two people that showcases a friendship
- c) One person with a visual clue as to their hobby
- d) A group of four people that showcases interaction
- e) Tree bark showing detail
- f) A white wall in direct sunlight
- g) Brightly colored carpet or green grass with an object
- h) Black asphalt with white lines
- i) The front door of your home or school
- j) An unusual angle on an automobile
- k) The inside of your house or bedroom
- l) An image showing the weather
- m) A photo in your gym