Getting to Know Your Digital Camera Worksheet

Use this as a guide to find the necessary controls on your digital camera.

When you see an *, use a pencil to fill in the information.

Identify the slot where a memory card may be inserted

Identify where you might insert batteries or a battery pack

Find your camera’s menu or menus

File Type/ Resolution

Most cameras capture JPEG images, a compressed file type. Some cameras also give you the ability to shoot RAW, a file that contains minimally processed data.

*What types of files is your camera capable of capturing?

Image resolution describes the amount of detail in a digital image

*Can you change the resolution of the digital files your camera captures? What options do you have?

White Balance

Tells your camera how to accurately reproduce colors within a scene.

Determine how to adjust your camera’s white balance setting

*Put a check mark beside the white balance settings that your camera allows:

   ___ Auto- the camera evaluates the scene and tries to find the brightest point, which it assumes is white

   ___ Custom- the user selects a white subject as a source, and the camera calculates the custom white balance

   ___ Daylight- automatic white balance for use in natural light

   ___ Shade- automatic white balance for use in shade
- Cloudy - automatic white balance for use on a cloudy day
- Tungsten/Incandescent - automatic white balance for use in tungsten light (such as a standard light bulb)
- Fluorescent - automatic white balance for use in fluorescent light
- Flash - automatic white balance for use with flash
- Other

**Camera Image Features**

If your camera has features that affect contrast, brightness, color saturation, or sharpness, please turn them OFF, set them to neutral, or to 0!! It is usually better to make these types of adjustments afterwards with photo editing software.

**Flash**

A flash is a light source that emits a very brief, bright burst of light helps to illuminate dark scenes.

Find your camera’s flash and determine how to turn it off and on.

**ISO**

Determines your digital camera’s sensitivity to light

Determine how to change the ISO setting on your camera. You will likely need to be in manual mode in order to change this setting. Remember the higher the ISO number, the more sensitive your sensor will be to light. This means that with a higher ISO, you will have more flexibility in lower light situations but will also see an increase in digital noise.

*List your camera’s range of ISO settings below, from least to most sensitive:
• **Exposure Modes**

Exposure describes how much light is let into the camera.

*Put a check mark beside the Exposure Modes that your camera allows:

___ **M-Manual** - The camera user manually sets the aperture and shutter speed

___ **AV** - Aperture Priority - The camera user manually sets the aperture, and the camera supplies the appropriate shutter speed

___ **TV or S-Shutter Priority** - The camera user manually sets the shutter speed, and the camera supplies the appropriate aperture

___ **P-Program Mode** - The camera selects an appropriate aperture and shutter speed, and the user may modify the settings by shifting the aperture-shutter speed combination

___ **A-Automatic Mode** - The camera selects an appropriate aperture and shutter speed for a given setting

• **Reflected Light Meter**

An exposure meter that measures the amount of light reflected or emitted by a subject. When you are in MANUAL exposure mode, you can access your light meter to determine what aperture and shutter speed settings to use.

Place your camera in MANUAL exposure mode. Determine how to access and read your camera’s reflected light meter.

Look for something like this:

```
-2 -1 0 +1 +2
```

Or this:

```
-2 -1 0 +1 +2
```

(do not confuse this with exposure compensation)
Aperture

The opening of the iris, or diaphragm, in the lens that can be adjusted to let more or less light hit the sensor. Also affects depth of field.

When in manual or aperture priority mode, determine how to change your camera’s aperture (measure in “f stops” such as f 2.8 or f 8)

*List your camera’s available Aperture settings from largest opening to smallest opening (note: these may change as you adjust the focal length of your lens):

Shutter Speed

Controls the amount of light that reaches the sensor by the length of time it stays open. Also affects the way movement is recorded.

When in manual or shutter priority mode, determine how to change your camera’s shutter speed

*List your camera’s available shutter speed settings from slowest to fastest (Note: Fractions are assumed and will typically be listed as a single digit...for example 1/8 sec will usually just say 8. Full seconds are usually denoted by ". For example, 8 seconds will read 8"):

Focus

Determine if you have the option to change from automatic to manual focus. Determine how to manually focus your lens, if the option exists.
• **Taking a Photograph**

Find the button to press to make an exposure. When you are ready to take a picture, stabilize your camera and gently press the shutter release all the way down. If set to automatic focus, most cameras pre-focus automatically when you press the shutter button halfway down.

• **Previewing your image**

After taking a photograph, determine how to preview your image.

• **Histogram**

![Histogram image](image_url)

The histogram is a graph that represents the maximum range of light values your camera can capture, in 256 steps. (0 = Pure Black, and 255 = Pure White)

*Does your camera give you an option to read the histogram for an exposure?*

• **Exposure Compensation**

When in an automatic or semi-automatic mode, exposure compensation allows you to manually override a metered exposure usually by a value between [-2] to [+] 2 stops.

Set your exposure mode to aperture priority or shutter priority. Find your camera’s exposure compensation settings.

Look for something like this:

![Exposure Compensation setting](image_url)

Or this:

-2 -1 0 +1 +2

• **Deleting an Image**

After taking an image, determine how to delete it from your memory card.

• **Formatting**

Erases all existing data and directory structures on your digital camera’s memory card. This action is irreversible. You should format your
memory card for its first use, and you should reformat each time you need to erase a card.

Determine how to format your memory card.