

FOUNDATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS LESSON 4

PRACTICE SHEET

Student Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to apply their knowledge of lighting in photography and create four photographs that implement thoughtful lighting components.

Suggested Time 35–40 minutes + at home practice

Students Create

- Four photographs, implementing lighting techniques that influence the mood and vibe of an image.

Let's begin!

1. **Tell Students** It's important to remember that photography is all about the process. Today you'll begin experimenting with four photography examples particularly focusing on color in your images.

You'll create:

- A photograph that uses a hard light
- A photograph that uses a soft light
- A photograph taken during the "golden hour"
- A photograph that uses backlighting
- A photograph using color transparencies or gel light filters (optional)

1. **Tell Students** Let's look at a few videos that experiment with lighting in different ways.

2. **Show** the following videos: [Colored Light](#), [Artificial Lighting](#), [Natural Light](#), [Window Lighting](#) and [Flash](#).

3. **Begin Creating** Grab your cameras, take photographs with intention, and have fun!

For the next lesson, students will be asked to select 7-8 photographs that are thoughtfully curated. (They will be narrowing it down to 5 next week)

We recommend having students devote 10-15 minutes at home looking through the images and jotting down and generating 3-5 ideas or themes that they have noticed during the last three lessons.

Students are to consider:

- How do my photographs implement thoughtful components of the four photography skills mentioned so far? (Composition, perspective, color, lighting)
- What story is my photograph trying to tell? Have I respectfully represented my vision?

(Optional) Creating Gel Filters Gel filters are transparent colored filters that are placed over light sources in order to cast a color onto the scene and/or subject being photographed.

Materials

- Cardboard
- Saran Wrap
- Acrylic Paint
- Thumbtacks
- Hot glue gun, or regular glue

Step 1: Using an Exacto knife or scissors, cut out two pieces of cardboard into squares that are the same size. Once you have your pieces, measure a one-inch border and cut out another square inside, creating a hollow frame out of the cardboard. Make both cardboard frames the same size. To do so, you may want to trace your first frame to create the second.

Step 2: Take a piece of saran wrap and place it on top of one of your cardboard frames. Place one thumbtack on each corner of the frame to hold the saran wrap in place.

Step 3: Paint the inside of your saran wrap, apply one layer of paint. Let it dry and apply a second coat of paint. Let it dry.

Step 4: Once dry, carefully remove the thumbtacks. Take your second piece of cardboard and place it down, on top of the first piece, with the painted saran wrap between the two frames.

Step 5: Once you have confirmed your frames fit, carefully take your glue gun, and glue both frames together, gluing the saran wrap in place. Once dry, you can cut out any excess saran wrap outside of the frame.

Step 6: (Optional) You can paint the cardboard frame black or the same color of your new DIY gel filter!

How to use Gel Filters Once you have created the gel filter(s), place them in front of your light source(s) (like a lamp or flashlight) to experiment with lighting a scene or subject. You may find it helpful to have someone help you hold the gels in place. Please keep the gels a safe distance from your light, and do not have them touch the light directly, to ensure they do not get too hot. For more tutorials search youtube for "DIY light gels." For example: https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v%3DA4YhuXVBIs4&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1623107975946000&usg=AOvVaw19mjzv7EBn_G0fGVhf4KBK

Write (Optional) Artists often sketch or write down their ideas in a sketchbook or journal. This helps you keep track of your ideas and become helpful in the future when developing new ideas.