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**Presentation 1  
“The Mind, Eye, and Heart of a Photographer”  
Thoughts, Ideas & Tips**

**MIND:** Be mindful. Slow down. Give some thought about what you are experiencing and how you want to capture it in a photograph.

**EYE:** Look for an interesting way to capture it in an image. Find a composition that is simple, uncluttered, pleasing to the eye.

**HEART:** Look for a moment that expresses emotion. You subject's or your own.

**Interpret the scene. Show more than that you were there with a camera.**

**Experience isn't complete until it's remembered. The better the photographs, the better the memories they will evoke.**

**Who are you shooting for? Yourself or to share with others? Maybe mix “here I am in front of the Taj Mahal” style photos (for you) with just the Taj Mahal (for others).**

**Use the Opportunities you have. This is your only chance to shoot pictures, to create memories. So shoot a lot, but try to make every shot count.**

**Don't focus too much on gear. It's not that important. It's the person behind the camera — you — that makes the photograph. Accept the limitations of your gear and the situation. Limitations will push your creativity.**

**You are responsible for what's in the picture, so look carefully. Maybe wait for the events to come together or for something to enter the frame and add to the composition. Look at what is happening in the background. Does it help the photo or distract? From life's chaos, focus on one element.**

**Move around. Explore different angles on the same subject. Look behind you.**

**There is no bad light. Learn to use the light and weather you have to advantage. Shadows can help show architectural details. Shade is good for portraits of people so they don't squint in the sunlight.**

**Shoot into the sun or exposure for the background to create graphic silhouettes.**

**Look for patterns. Details. Framing elements. Layering.**

**Engage with people to make their portraits. Lead with yourself, not the camera.**

**Look for MOMENTS that express cultural uniqueness but also our shared humanity. Look for the "quiet dramas" of life. Look for people being people, expressing a facet of the human condition.**

**Situational Awareness: Look at what's going on now, and what might happen in a few minutes. Plan ahead for images that may soon unfold around you.**

**Work the scene. Stay with the action. It might get better.**

**Try viewpoints that make viewers feel like they are there, part of the action. Look for angles like diagonals, or paths that lead viewers into the scene.**

**Try to imagine the photo you are taking as a framed print on the wall or a book cover. Does it stand alone as a beautiful composition and/or compelling documentation of something?**

**You are part of the scene you are shooting. But later, the photo will be seen out of context. Does it hold up on its own?**

**Include people in a landscape for interest and scale. Hide them if you want by blocking them with something in the scene, which may take moving a few steps to find a different angle.**

**Shoot the tapestry of experience. Different viewpoints, different subjects that are a part of the scene. Shoot some videos.**

**Have fun. Try stuff. You can delete bad shots. I assure you, National Geographic photographers, indeed ALL photographers, take a lot of bad photos. Nobody ever sees them.**

**A photograph is a gift you give yourself and share with others.**

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