

ASSIGNMENT: Take photos demonstrating:

- 1) Hard versus Soft Light
- 2) Ambient Light
- 3) Artificial Light

Here are some examples:

Hard Light comes from direct sunlight or direct flash and shows sharp contrast between light and shadow. To demonstrate this, try taking a photo of any subject (your dog, brother or sister, or any object, etc.) under a direct sunlight hitting their face or turn on the flash on your camera.



Hard Light: Note the hard contrast between light and shadow.

Soft light is a diffused light that comes through in a cloudy, snowy, or a rainy day. It can also come from light through a curtain by a window. Soft light doesn't cast harsh shadows. Try taking a photo outside in a shade (no flash) or inside your house near a window.



Soft Light: Note the soft shadow on Dani's face without any harsh contrast or bright sunlight.

2) Ambient Light (Natural Light)

Ambient light is any light that's not from a camera flash or other artificial light sources. Any photo taken outside or indoors without a flash can be considered ambient light. To demonstrate, take a photo of a subject outside but try to get a good exposure (not too dark and not too light) by placing the subject in just the right amount of light.



Teddy was placed next to an open window.

3) Artificial light

Artificial Light can come from your camera flash, lamp, flash light, or even a candle light.

To demonstrate, take a photo of any subject under a lamp or a candle light. Try to get a good exposure by controlling how much artificial light is hitting your subject. If your camera allows for aperture, shutter speed or ISO control, try using these to control the amount of light (this is not necessary with point and shoot or phone cameras).



Alex is lit only by his desk lamp.



Lit by the candle lights