

## **Taking Fab Photos with Your Phone**

### **What Makes a Great Photo?**

- ☐ A great photo has a great subject, and tells a story
- ☐ Keep it simple / Eliminate distractions
- ☐ Get in close (and then get in even closer!)
- ☐ Include leading lines and diagonal lines
- ☐ Rule of thirds
- ☐ Symmetry
- ☐ Repetition
- ☐ Frame the subject
- ☐ Go high, go low, walk the arc (ie don't always shoot at eye level)
- ☐ Colour – Repeated Colour
- ☐ Colour – Complementary Colours
  
- ☐ Portraits – Eyes are sharp
- ☐ Portraits – Have a simple background
- ☐ Portraits – Leave space in the direction the person is moving/facing
- ☐ Portraits of Children and Animals – Get down to their level
  
- ☐ Landscapes – Horizon (usually) NOT in the middle
- ☐ Landscapes – Include foreground, middle ground, background
- ☐ Landscapes – Shoot at dawn or dusk
- ☐ Landscapes – Include a great sky
- ☐ Landscapes – Fog or mist or rain often adds to a landscape photo
  
- ☐ Lighting – Back-light (especially for portraits)
- ☐ Lighting for Portraits – Window light
- ☐ Lighting for Portraits – Stay out of the direct sun (except backlight)

## Ten Everyday Uses of Your Mobile Phone Camera

Besides photographing friends, family members and places (and selfies!), here are ten everyday uses for your phone camera.

### 1. Nutrition Facts labels

If you're keeping track of calories or other nutritional information, it may be easier to take a picture of the labels and then write everything down at the end of the day.

### 2. Comparing prices

When you're out shopping, you may like to compare prices at different stores. Just take a picture of the item's price, and try to include the item itself in the photo.

### 3. Product dimensions

If you're shopping for furniture, shelves, or appliances, it's best to measure the space before going to the store. But if you forget to do this, you can take a picture of the item's dimensions (on the front or back of the box), then measure the space when you get home.

### 4. Parking

If you've parked at an airport or the mall, or in a new city, you might forget where your car is. Right after you park, take a picture of your car, and be sure to include an identifying feature like a street sign or a building.

### 5. Car accidents

If you're involved in a car accident, it's a good idea to take pictures of your car and all other cars that were involved.

### 6. Scanning documents

You don't need a scanner to keep a record of documents. You can just take pictures of tax forms, bills, letters, and other documents.

### 7. Rental cars

Most rental car companies require you to return the car with the same amount of gas in the tank (or more) to avoid extra fees. The first time you start the car, take a picture of the gas gauge. You can then check the photo before refueling the car.

### 8. Confirmation numbers

If you're buying tickets online for a movie, concert, or baseball game, you may need to bring your confirmation number to the ticket window. If you take a picture of the confirmation number on your computer screen, you won't have to worry about bringing it with you.

### 9. Making repairs

If you've ever taken something apart to repair it, you know that the hardest part is putting it back together. Before you start disassembling something, take a photo of it, and if necessary take more photos as you take it apart. Later, when you forget which part goes where, you'll be glad you have the photos to remind you.

### 10. Saving evidence

If you're telling your friends about something unbelievable that happened (for example, catching a really big fish), it's nice to have proof. Take several photos, just in case your friends are still skeptical.

***What are some other practical uses of your mobile phone camera?***