



## Module 2

# Technical Skills in Photography and Videography



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# Introduction

Mastering core technical skills is crucial for photographers and videographers, forming the foundation for producing high-quality visual content. These skills cover a broad spectrum of abilities, including knowledge of camera functions, control over exposure, and the application of advanced techniques.



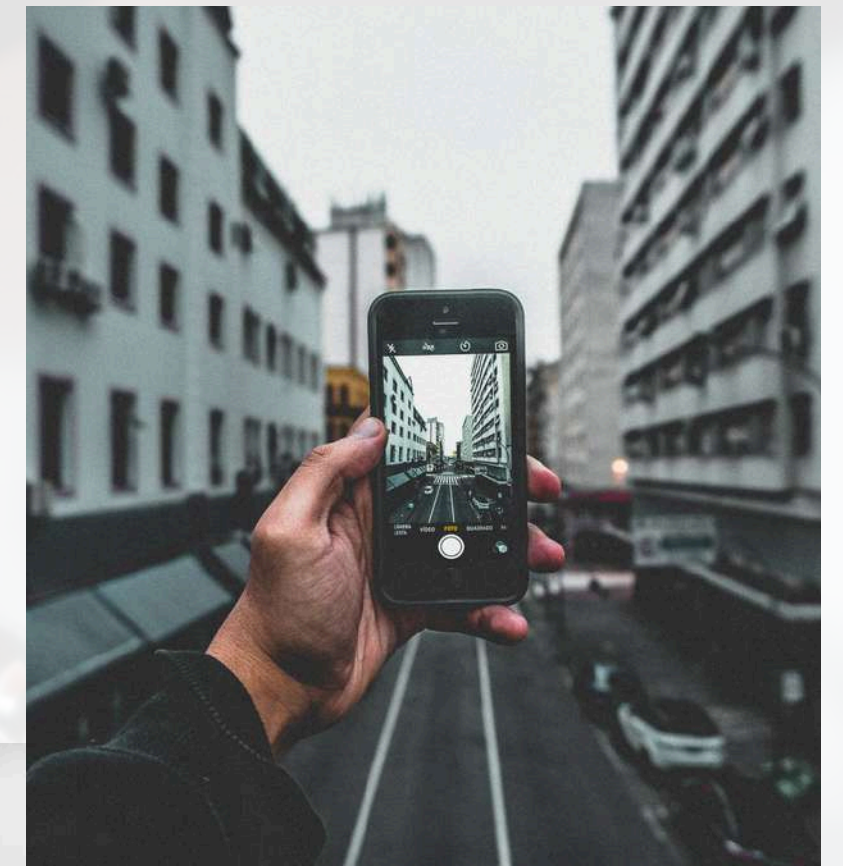
# Visual Language

Visual media as photography and videography have their own language comprised of:

- **Composition**  
The arrangement of elements within the frame to create balance, emphasis, and visual interest.
- **Color**  
The use of color palettes and symbolism to evoke emotions, establish time periods, and enhance visual storytelling.
- **Framing**  
The use of camera angles and distances to establish a specific perspective and convey character emotions.
- **Movement**  
The use of camera movement and editing techniques to create dynamism, rhythm, and a sense of immediacy.
- **Lighting**  
The use of light and shadow to create mood, atmosphere, and focus on specific elements within a scene.
- **Editing**  
The art of assembling individual shots into a cohesive narrative flow, controlling the pacing, rhythm, and emotional impact of the film/storytelling.

# Photography

Photography is both an **art** and a **science**, involving the **capture of light** with a camera to produce images. Over time, it has evolved from a technical practice requiring specialized expertise into a widely accessible medium. Its applications are diverse, spanning art, journalism, advertising, science, and personal expression. Photography freezes moments in time, preserves memories, and conveys stories without the need for words.



# Types of Cameras

## **DSLR (Digital Single-Lens Reflex)**

Known for versatility and image quality. Offers interchangeable lenses and manual controls.

## **Mirrorless**

Compact and lightweight with no mirror mechanism. Offers interchangeable lenses and often advanced features.

## **Point-and-Shoot**

Simple and compact, ideal for casual photography with fixed lenses.

## **Smartphone Cameras**

Convenient and portable with improving image quality and features.



# Camera settings

## Aperture

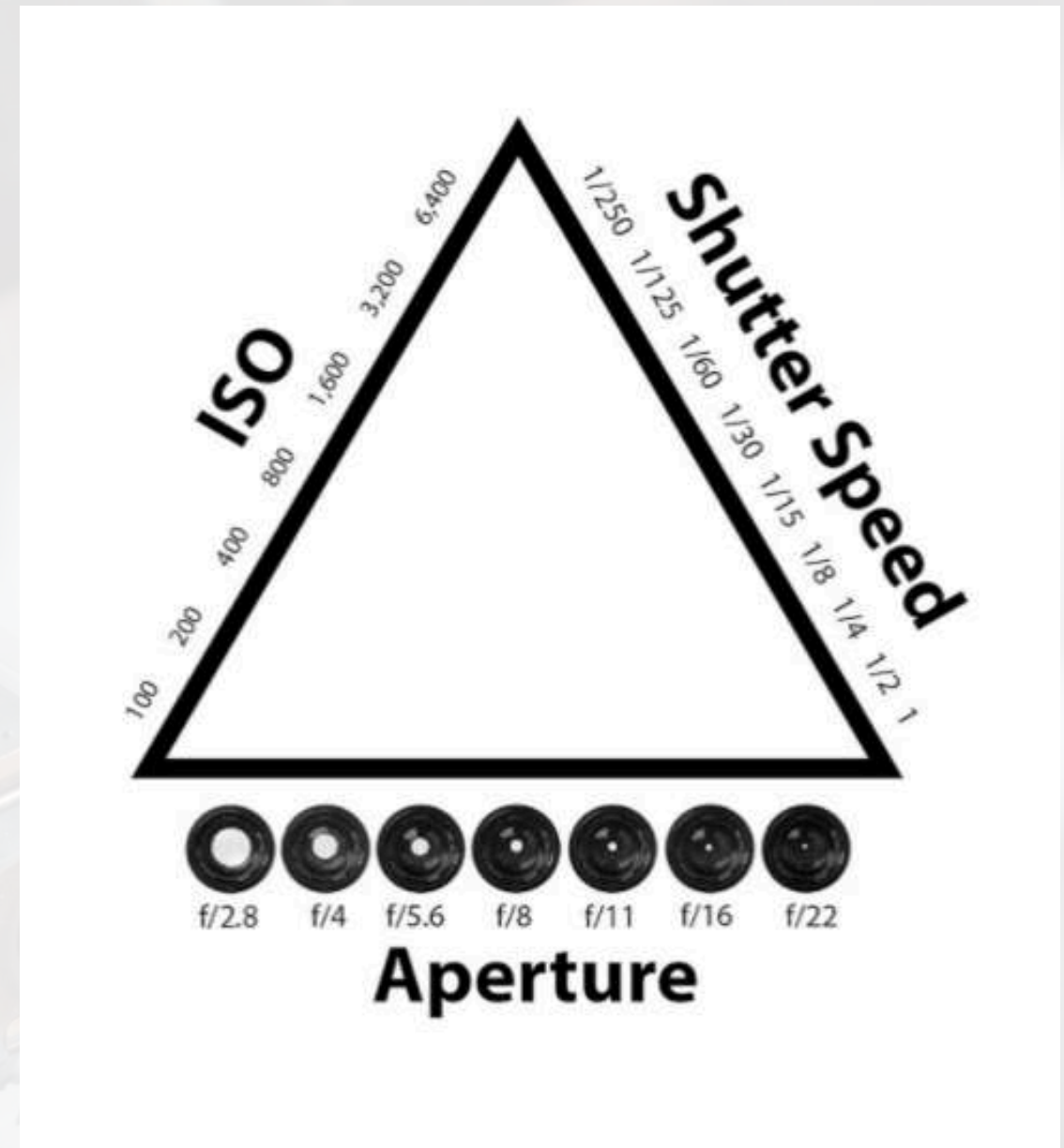
Controls the amount of light entering the camera through the lens. Measured in f-stops (e.g., f/2.8, f/8). A lower f-stop number (larger aperture) creates a shallow depth of field, blurring the background, while a higher f-stop number (smaller aperture) increases the depth of field, keeping more of the image in focus.

## Shutter Speed

Determines the length of time the camera's sensor is exposed to light. Measured in fractions of a second (e.g., 1/500, 1/30). Faster shutter speeds freeze motion, while slower speeds create motion blur.

## ISO

Measures the sensor's sensitivity to light. Lower ISO values (e.g., 100) produce cleaner images with less noise, while higher ISO values (e.g., 1600) are useful in low-light situations but may introduce noise.



# Key Elements

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## Composition

**Rule of Thirds:** A rule of thirds grid is a compositional guideline in photography and design that divides an image into a 3x3 grid of nine equal sections using two horizontal and two vertical lines. Important elements are placed along these lines or at their intersections, known as "power points," to create a more balanced, dynamic, and visually interesting composition rather than centering the subject. Many cameras and smartphones can display this grid as an overlay to help users compose their shots effectively.

**Framing:** Use elements within the scene (e.g., windows, arches, trees) to frame the subject, drawing attention to it and adding depth to the image.

## Lightening

**Natural Light:** Use sunlight, which changes throughout the day, affecting the quality and direction of light. The golden hour (shortly after sunrise and before sunset) offers soft, warm light, while midday sun can create harsh shadows.

**Artificial Light:** Use light sources like lamps, LED panels, and studio lights. You can control these lights' intensity, direction, and colour to achieve desired effects.

## Importance of Post-Processing

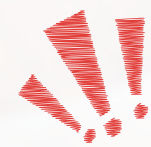
Every camera has limitations, and no device can replicate the full range of light that the human eye perceives. Therefore, post-processing helps to bridge this gap by making necessary adjustments to exposure, contrast, and white balance, resulting in images that more closely resemble what the eye sees.

However, it's crucial to find a **balance in post-processing**; over-editing can lead to unnatural results, such as excessive saturation or unnatural colors. A good rule of thumb is that about 80% of the desired look should already be present in the original image, and initial edits should focus on basic adjustments before moving on to more complex techniques.

Photographers have access to **various tools and software** that cater to different needs and budgets. Free options like [Darktable](#) and [GIMP](#) offer powerful editing capabilities without the need for subscriptions, and for smartphones Snapseed and Adobe Lightroom (you can use a free version of the Lightroom mobile app for basic editing and presets).

# Videography

Videography is the **art** and **technology** of **capturing moving images on electronic media**, which encompasses a wide array of essential and technical skills crucial for producing high-quality video content. As a key medium in storytelling and communication, videography has become increasingly significant in various sectors, including film, advertising, education, and social media.



Videography and cinematography are rooted in photographic principles that make up motion picture making. A good understanding of photography assists filmmakers determine how best to frame shots as well as manipulate lighting thus effectively conveying visual narratives.



# Key Elements

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## Camera Angles

Camera angles shape how audiences perceive scenes and characters. High angles suggest vulnerability, low angles convey power, and eye-level shots create balance and realism, drawing viewers into the story.

## Continuity

Continuity ensures a film's visual and narrative flow remains smooth and coherent. It requires consistency in the placement of actors, props, and settings across shots and scenes. Errors, such as shifts in a character's clothing or object positions, can pull the audience out of the story. Maintaining continuity demands precise planning in pre-production and careful attention to detail during filming.

## Close-ups

Close-ups emphasize a specific part of the subject, often a character's face, to capture emotions and details that wider shots may overlook. They are powerful tools for building intimacy and immersing the audience in a character's inner world. When used effectively, a close-up can convey rich information and emotional depth, strengthening the viewer's connection to the characters.

# Key Elements

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## Static Shots

Static shots keep the **camera still**, often used in dialogue or to highlight key moments. They create **stability and focus** on performance and detail but can also suggest stasis or confinement, especially in tight spaces.

## Dynamic Shots

Dynamic shots use **camera movements** like pans, tilts, or dollies to follow characters, reveal details, or shift perspective. A slow pan can build suspense, while a quick tilt suggests urgency or surprise. These movements add **energy and fluidity**, guiding the viewer's focus and enriching visual storytelling.

## Rhythm

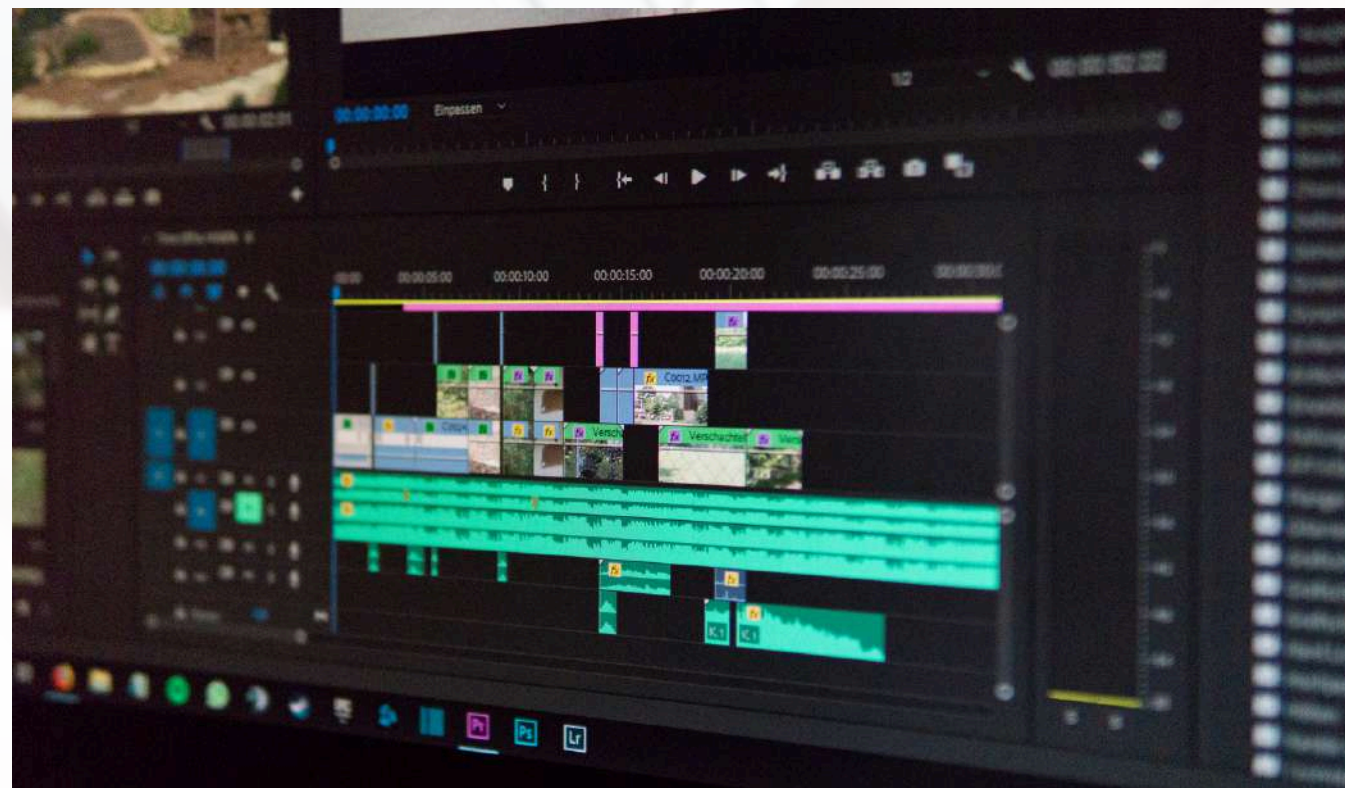
Rhythm in film emerges from the **timing of movements, cuts, and transitions**. Quick cuts and rapid motion create a fast-paced rhythm that conveys excitement, tension, or chaos, while longer takes and softer movements establish a slower rhythm that suggests calm, reflection, or melancholy. Directors carefully shape rhythm to sustain the intended emotional tone and keep viewers engaged.

# Cutting or Editing

Cutting, or editing, is the process of **selecting and arranging shots** to create a coherent and compelling narrative. Cuts should be motivated by the action and emotion of the scene, and the pacing should match the narrative’s rhythm. Smooth transitions between shot help maintain the flow, while abrupt cuts can create tension or surprise. Understanding the principles of cutting allows directors to craft scenes that are both visually engaging and narratively effective.



## Stages of Editing



- 01 **Viewing the rushes** (Rushes = all of the takes filmed during the shooting)
- 02 **Sorting and selecting shots** to be used in the film
- 03 **Assembling the shots** in a certain order
- 04 **Deciding on the duration** of each shot and the “**transitions**” between these
- 05 **Ensuring overall consistency** with sound

# Sound Design

## Non-Diegetic sounds

Mostly sounds that the characters cannot hear, but the audience can, such as soundtrack or voices over.

## Diegetic Sounds

They usually coincide with what the images show, such as the dialogues, object sounds and audible movements that can be in-screen or off-screen.

## Onscreen sounds

It refers to any sound that is visibly connected to what is happening on the screen, such as a character playing music on a guitar.

## Offscreen sounds

It refers to any sound that is not visibly connected to what is happening on the screen, such as the sound of a car honking in the distance.

# Common Audio Mistakes

## Overlook the significance of audio

Amateur videographers often overlook the significance of audio, resulting in subpar recordings.

## Ignoring Audio Levels

Failing to test audio levels before recording can lead to either too low or distorted sound.

## Improper Microphone Placement

Many amateurs do not consider the directionality of microphones or place them too far from the sound source, compromising audio quality.

## Poor Sound Design

Sound effects and background music play a crucial role in creating an engaging video. Amateur edits may neglect these elements, resulting in a flat auditory experience.



# Ethical considerations and safeguarding

**01****Consent**

It needs to be detailed, clear purpose of use of material (photos on social media and annual report), local language and easy to understand. If participant is under 18 parental consent is needed. Make sure to obtain oral consent when photographing, even if the participants have signed the written form.

**02****Dignity**

Ensure people's dignity and confidentiality.

**03****Cultural Sensitivity**

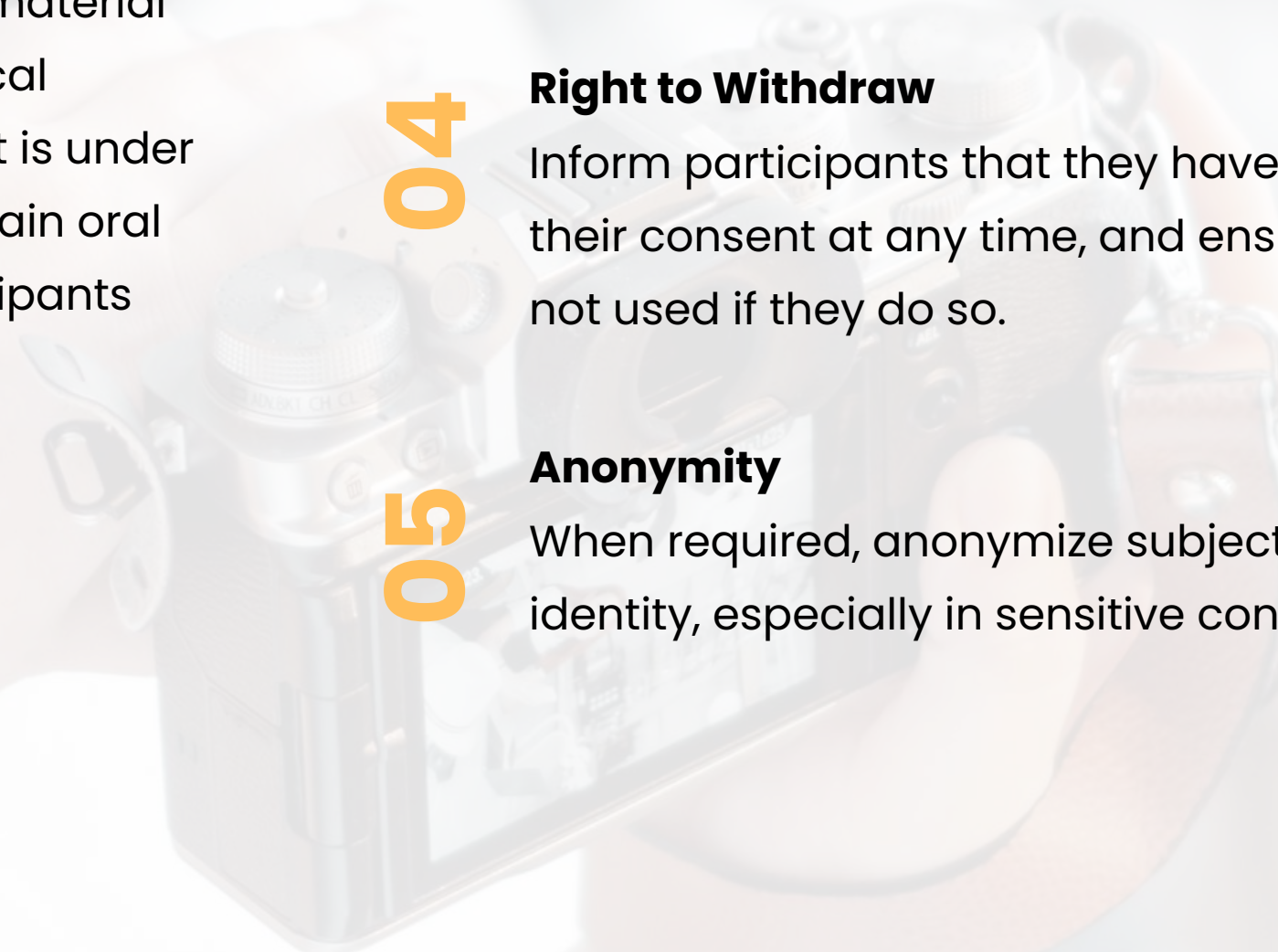
Be aware of and respect cultural norms and practices when photographing individuals from different backgrounds.

**04****Right to Withdraw**

Inform participants that they have the right to withdraw their consent at any time, and ensure their photos are not used if they do so.

**05****Anonymity**

When required, anonymize subjects to protect their identity, especially in sensitive contexts.





# EU UNITED

Engaging Young Migrants from North Africa  
in Participative Video and Storytelling to  
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