

# The Basics of Digital Photography, Editing, and Organizing

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Roses Memory Creation LLC

# Lesson Objectives

## **Learn**

- How to take better photos
- Digital Editing tips and tricks
- My workflow for safely storing images

## **Practice**

Use the skills we are learning with your camera or smartphone

# About Me & My Business

Owner of Smell the Roses Memory Creation LLC

Top 5 in Best of Mankato since 2022

17 years of experience

I started exploring digital photography and editing in 2008

Almost 4 years in business

Started October 2021



# Tips and Tricks Overview:

1) **Composition**- what's in the photo

2) **Lighting**- how we see what's in the photo

3) **Storing**- how I do it

4) **Digital Editing Basics**

# Tip #1 Composition: What is in the photo

**Natural Framing-** Use the environment to frame your subject

**Filling the Frame-** Be mindful about what is in your camera's view when taking photos. Keep distractions out of the way so your subject is the main focus, and fill the space with an interesting background

**Viewpoint-** Playing around with angles and where you stand while taking the photo will change how viewers will perceive the photo



**Depth-** Create layers in your photo by placing objects in the foreground and background around your subject.

**The Rule of Thirds-** The rule of thirds is based on the idea that the human eye is naturally drawn to points of interest that are off-center.

**Center-** When placing subjects in the center of your photos, use symmetries, leading lines, natural framing, negative space, and minimalism to create a more interesting photo





# Tip #2 Lighting: How we see what is in a photo

**Find Even Light (Shadows & Shade)-** Find spots of even shade so there isn't strange light in your subject's face. Overcast days are great for this!

**Backlight Subjects Outdoors-** Avoid harsh sunlight and shadows by placing the sun behind your subjects

**Use Windows and Natural Light Indoors-** The more natural light you can use inside, the more natural your photos will look



**Create Mood & Atmosphere-** Use light to incorporate shadows, draw attention to specific parts of your composition, and make your subjects stand out

**Hard vs Soft Light-** Hard light creates harsher shadows, while soft light creates softer shadows

**Golden Hour-** The sweet spot for taking photos, usually an hour or so before and after sunrise/sunset







# Tip #3 Storing Photos: Digital Cameras

## Capture

When I capture an image on my camera, it is saved to a MicroSD card.



## Store

I make folders for every session on my hard drive, Google Drive, and Lightroom

I upload photos to my computer, then each of those places, dragging them from the card to the desired location

After editing, I create another folder for the finished photos and be sure to name the folder and photos so that I can easily find them. Then I upload to a hard drive.

## Locate

Locating photos for me depends on what I need them for

If I am editing, I use the folders in my Lightroom

If I am merely searching for a folder, I go to my hard drive or Google Drive! V

# Tip #3 Storing Photos: Other Ways

## Capture

You may also capture a photo using your smartphone, or receive it by email, text, or other ways!

## Store

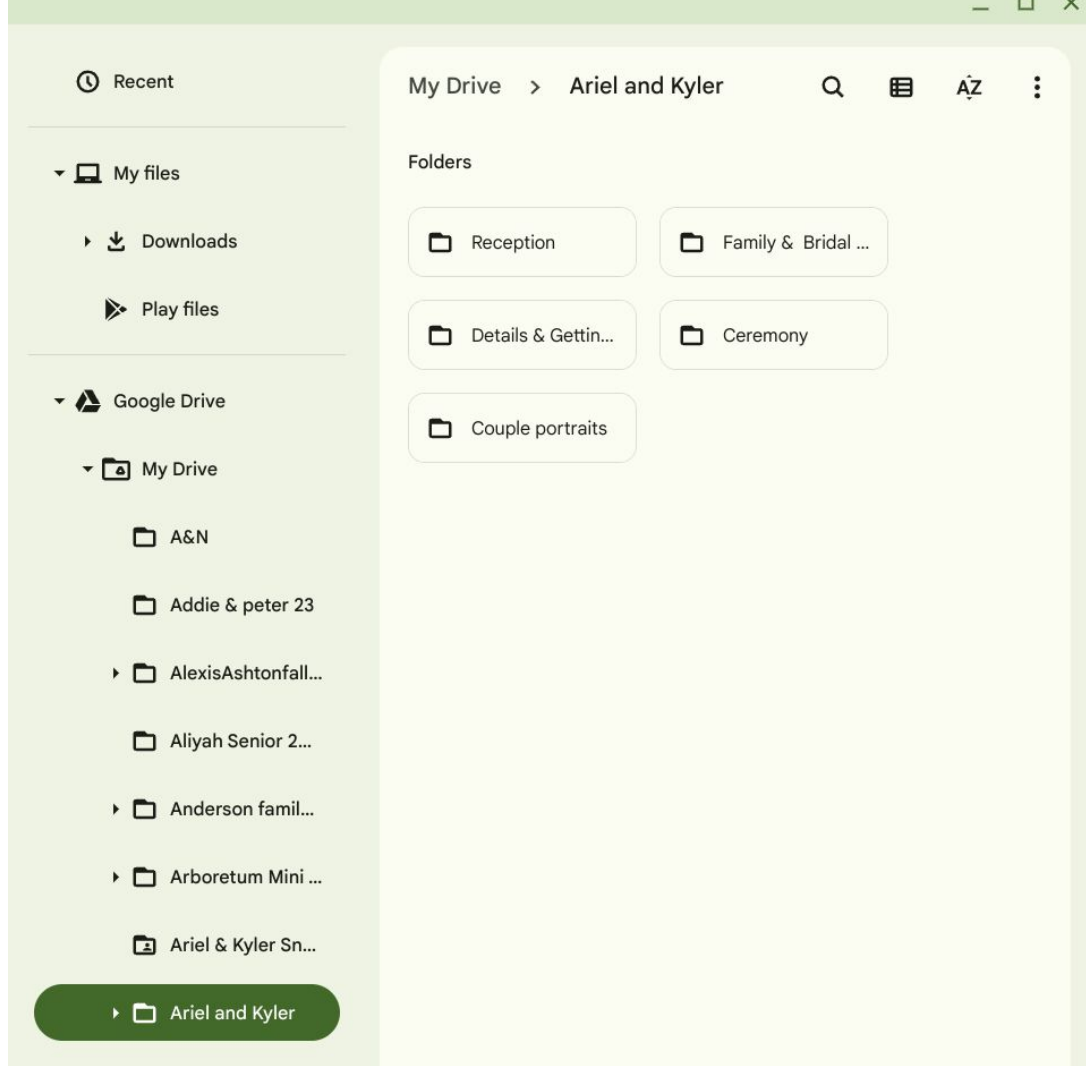
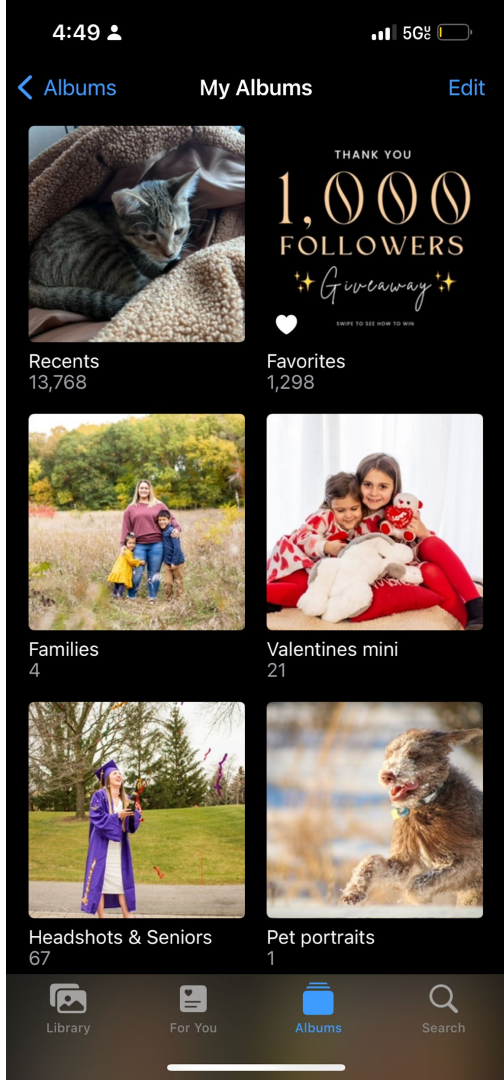
Save it to your device- depending on the device, you may need to press and hold on the photo or right click it to save it

Create folders for your images on your smartphone or computer, naming them so you can easily find them.

Examples "Family photos 2023" Or "kitten photos"

## Locate

Using the search option on your computer or smartphone, search for the name of the folder so you can easily find your photo



# Tip #4 Digital Editing: How to enhance your photos to make the colors and lighting pop

**Exposure-** The amount of light that reaches the camera's sensor, affecting the brightness of a photo

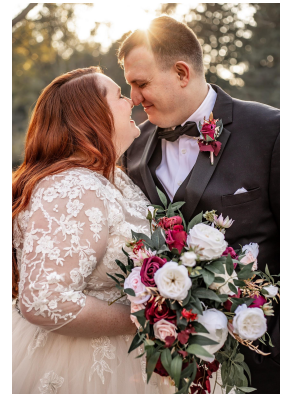
**Highlights, Shadows, Brightness-** The more intricate parts of lighting and exposure when editing

**Cropping-** Cropping is a useful tool to straighten and change the composition of your photos

**Contrast-** The difference between the lightest and darkest parts of the images

**Saturation-** The amount and vibrancy of colors in the photo

**Warmth & Tint-** Can be used to correct the colors of a photo



3:01



9 of 29 | Original  
1/640 sec at f/2.2, ISO 200  
50 mm (EF50mm f/1.8 STM)  
Canon EOS 6D



B&W    Grading    Color mix

White balance Custom

Temp 5500K

Tint +12

Auto    Light    Color    Blur    Effects    Detail



# Practice Time!

Feel free to get out your smartphone or camera and use it to practice some things we have been talking about!

Feel free to ask questions!

# Summary

## **Learned**

- How to take better photos  
(Composition & Lighting)
- Digital Editing tips and tricks
- My workflow for safely storing  
images

## **Practiced**

Using the skills we learned with  
your camera or smartphone

Questions?



# Thank you!

I hope you'll use these tips to go out and create beautiful photos you can cherish forever!

Please consider reaching out to me the next time you need professional portraits done!

Lizzie Rossow- Smell the Roses Memory Creation

[Smelltherosesmemorycreation.com](http://Smelltherosesmemorycreation.com)

Find me on Facebook & Instagram!