Affirmations & Reflections: Take Better Photos

Bonus material for uniquestoremarket.com's "How to Take Better Photos" guide. A handout to keep nearby while you work through the six chapters, or to read one per day.

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1 **Before I shoot, I notice where the light is coming from and how hard it is.**
Reflection: Which direction was the light coming from in the last photo I took?

2 **An overcast day is not bad light; it is a softbox the size of the sky.**
Reflection: When did I last stay in because the sky was grey?

3 **If the light is bad, I can move around the subject or shoot at a different time of day.**
Reflection: Where have I accepted bad light instead of changing my position?

4 **Composition is mostly subtraction, so I decide the one subject first.**
Reflection: What is the one subject in the photo I like most from this week?

5 **I get closer by moving my feet, not by zooming.**
Reflection: Which recent photo would have improved if I had stepped in?

6 **I check the edges and the background before shooting, not after.**
Reflection: What have I found growing out of someone's head only after taking the photo?

7 **I choose what the camera focuses on rather than letting it guess.**
Reflection: How often do I tap the subject before pressing the shutter?

8 **For a portrait the focus goes on the near eye.**
Reflection: Looking at my last portrait at full size, where did the sharpest point actually land?

9 **Distance first, portrait mode second.**
Reflection: Have I tried moving the subject away from the background before reaching for portrait mode?

10 **A shadow that is too dark can be lifted later; a pure white highlight cannot.**
Reflection: Which of my photos has a sky or shirt with no information left in it?

11 **A task makes a person look more natural than a pose does.**
Reflection: What could I ask the next person I photograph to do?

12 **I edit lightly, look again tomorrow, and keep only a handful of photos.**
Reflection: If I had to keep five from this week's photos, which would they be and why?