

Take home lighting exercises

Exercise 1:

1. Observe the light in different locations – an open field, a swimming pool, a covered verandah, a shady spot, a room with windows.
2. What is the quality of the light? What kinds of shadows does the light create are they long or short?
3. Does the quality of the light tell us the time of day?
4. Does the light reveal the textures of surfaces?
5. Does it create ripples or dappled light? What impressions do these different effects create?
6. In a given location how would you use the available light to light a subject?
7. If there is a well-lit window producing soft light (on an overcast day, or through a light curtain, or by indirect light, how does this light affect the subject who is lit by it?
8. If there is a window or field in the background, how could you light the subject in the foreground?
9. In shady spot, can you use the sun on a reflector to direct light at the subject into the shade?
10. Can you use the sunlight as a backlight, and what effect does this have on the subject? What shadows does it cast.
11. What is the effect if you use the sun as a key light? Can you use a reflector to provide fill?

Exercise 2:

At night, use a collection of practical lights (lamps, reading lights etc) and even Christmas lights and candles to create a lighting set up for night. What effects of depth can you create? What effect does this light have on someone who sits close to it? Record the lighting setup in a written log. Take a photo and compare notes with your friends. Use your observations to create similar lighting set ups and moods for your video.