



SIX WAYS
TO
IMPROVE YOUR IMAGES

John Lehman

<http://thewizardofpixels.com>

www.flickr.com/photos/windsweptphoto/

1. Ask Yourself “What If?”

- ▣ As you encounter a photo op-Ask “What if?”
 - Work the Scene
 - Change perspective – shoot high and low
 - Get up and move
 - “If your pictures aren’t good enough, you are not close enough” Move in close.
 - Take your camera off “A”
 - ▣ Try “P” which allows shutter speed and f stop to be changed in synch
 - ▣ Shoot with Aperture Priority (AV) and control your depth of field.
 - Make mistakes and make more mistakes

Play – Risk – Fail (delete later)

Don't Stifle Creativity



1. Wait until you get to your computer to edit
2. Look at them all, rate on a second review
3. Only throw out those that clearly have no value.

Always have your
camera ready



Change Perspective



Move in Close
Eyelevel with your subject

Focus on
shadows or
reflections



2. Plan Enough Time

- ▣ Take the Contest Shot (one a judge will like)
- ▣ Now get creative
 - Use a lens you “aren’t supposed to”
 - Place the subject somewhere other than the rule of thirds
 - Shoot to please *yourself*—take enough time to shoot until you go “wow”.
 - Some circumstances will *never* produce a “wow”, so *don’t waste your time* on lousy light or a mediocre location.

Watch The World Go By

- ▣ Pick a spot, sit down, and watch what happens.



*Pay
Attention To
The Moment*



Look
Behind
You

3. What's In—What's Out

- Pay attention to the edges of your frame
 - Crop in camera for the strongest, sharpest images
 - Shoot multiple images—long, medium, close--edit later. This is especially important for portraits.

*Watch for the unguarded moments when subjects are interested in other things.
Watch for a laugh, an emotion, a story*



- Not all stories can be told in one image—do multiple images and collages.
 - Create a slide show, use templates or multiple image frames

4. Look at the *Quality* of light

- ▣ Study light all of the time.
 - Watch how light plays on people and objects
 - *Quantity* of light can be controlled with f stop and shutter speed, but the *quality* of light is harder to manage outside of a studio.



5. Post Process for Creativity

- ▣ Who says we have to crop or process traditionally?

Try:

Tall -Square--Wide

B & W--Cross process

Intentional blur--Selective focus



Learn your software
Check out plug-ins

Review not so perfect shots
for possible creative
editing



6. Personal Projects

- ▣ I can't underestimate the value of personal projects.
 - 365 – One photo a day for a year
 - Self portraits
 - Explore your backyard (neighborhood, house, etc.)
 - Shoot with only one prime lens (or f stop or whatever)
- ▣ Keep the project idea in your head, make notes on your phone, etc. as they come to you.
- ▣ Search for things that excite you.
- ▣ Open a flickr account and post them.