



Project  
**Photography**  
POST-SECONDARY



## Post-Secondary Competitor Orientation - May 27, 2026

*(Exact time to be announced)*

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### Handing in Pre-Assignment:

- Submit your finished **Pre-Assignment Project** to any member of the National Technical Committee.
- Ensure that it is saved on a correctly labeled thumb drive, following the guidelines outlined in **Part 1**.

### Essential Equipment:

- **Camera equipment** (body, lenses, memory cards, etc.)
- **Computer** (for editing and processing)
- **Labeled thumb drive** (USB Drive)—for example, write "AB-PS" for "Alberta-Post-Secondary."
- **Lighting equipment** (mandatory for Part 6)
- **Pen and paper** (for taking notes during orientation and various information briefings)
- **Copies of all competition documents** (or access to electronic versions, e.g., PDFs from the Skills Canada website)

### Technical Readiness:

- Ensure your **computer is fully updated** and able to handle large photo editing files.
- **Metadata** must be embedded in all submitted files.
- **Update your editing software** to the latest version for optimal performance.

### Camera Settings Verification:

Ensure that the **date and time settings** on your camera are accurate for the time zone you are working in. Calibrate your camera **before the competition starts**.



## Day 1:

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### Part 1: (Pre-assignment) - Lighting Magic

**Due at the beginning of orientation (2 photographs)**

#### Objective:

- Use ambient and artificial lighting to transform an ordinary scene into an extraordinary visual narrative, based on the theme "**When the Light Fades**".

#### Lighting Setup:

- **First Photograph:** Use only the available **ambient light** at the time of capture.
- **Second Photograph:** Use **artificial lighting** (e.g., strobes, flash, LED, continuous lights) to replace or modify the ambient light.

#### Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 1 must still be met.
- The **ambient light** in both photos must remain relatively constant. The only difference between the images should be the type of lighting used.
- Both photos should have the **same composition and framing**, with the camera fixed in place and subjects remaining in the same visual space. (We understand that people move, so please do your best to keep your subjects in the same position.)
- Both images must be taken within **an hour** of each other.
- There should be a **clear difference in mood and atmosphere** between the two images.
- Ensure that the **date and time settings** on your camera are accurate for the time zone you are working in. Calibrate your camera **before beginning this pre-assignment**.
- The final photographs must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge) and **in colour**.



**Keywords:**

- No keywords need to be assigned to this image.

**Submission Method and Naming Convention:**

- You are required to submit both photographs during the orientation session scheduled for May 27, 2026. Please ensure that you bring them on a thumb drive provided by you, which should bear the abbreviation for your province (e.g., “AB-PS” for Alberta (AB) and Post-Secondary (S)).

- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**

ProvincialAbbreviation\_LastName\_part1\_01.jpg

ProvincialAbbreviation\_LastName\_part1\_02.jpg

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**Part 2: HDR Architecture**

**Due End of Day 1 (4 photographs)**

**Objective:**

- Create an architectural composition showcasing interior design and light interaction using HDR (High Dynamic Range) photography.

**Requirements:**

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 2 must still be met.
- Capture three bracketed exposures to seamlessly merge into a balanced HDR image.
- Choose any architectural interior subject.
- Include exterior windows, interior lights, and people (point deductions for missing elements).
- Use a tripod to capture the three exposures, ensuring you capture the full dynamic range from shadows to highlights.
- Competitors will be evaluated on their proficiency in capturing and processing a building interior HDR image. Minimize distracting signage, lighting, and people



that do not correspond to the main subject of the architectural HDR image (blurred people are acceptable and even encouraged).

- The final image must undergo vertical perspective correction.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28)**.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge, in Adobe RGB 1998 colour space) along with the **three original RAW files** used for HDR processing.
- It's important to be aware that the file extension for your RAW submissions will vary according to the brand and model of the camera you use. For instance, it may be \*.CR2 for Canon, \*.NEF for Nikon, or \*.ARW for Sony.

#### Keywords:

- Your last name, Province, Post-Secondary, Part 2, HDR

#### Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part2\_01.jpg  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part2\_01.RAW  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part2\_02.RAW  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part2\_03.RAW

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### Part 3: Mystery Object 1

#### Due End of Day 1 (1 photograph)

#### Objective:

- Create a photograph featuring a **mystery object** revealed at the start of Day 1. This object must be the **main subject** or a major contributing element to the main subject.



### Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28)**.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge, in Adobe RGB 1998 colour space).

### Keywords:

- Your last name, Province, Post-Secondary, Part 3, Mystery1

### Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part3\_01.jpg
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## Part 4: Photojournalistic Triptych (in camera, no editing)

### Due End of Day 1 (3 photographs)

#### Objective:

- Capture three distinct photographs, each featuring a different competitor in three separate skill competition areas, using only available light. Present the images as a photojournalistic-style triptych.

#### Requirements:

- Photos must be captured **using only available light**.
- The use of photo editing software is **strictly prohibited**.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28)**.
- Each final photograph **must have** the same aspect ratio and orientation, meaning they must all be either horizontal or vertical, with identical pixel dimensions in both width and height.



- The 3-photograph series will be assessed as a unified collection, **presented left to right** in the order of their respective numbers, for viewing, judging, and scoring.
- Competitors must **request permission** from a National Technical Committee member responsible for the skill competition area they have chosen to photograph.
- Before accessing any other skill competition areas, competitors must **acquire the necessary safety equipment** from the Safety Office (e.g. hard hat, toe caps, etc,) as required per competition area.
- Keep in mind that the evaluation of this photographic triptych will primarily focus on its **impact, originality, creativity, and adept utilization of available lighting**.
- The final photographs must be submitted in **RAW format**.
- It's important to be aware that the file extension for your RAW submissions will vary according to the brand and model of the camera you use. For instance, it may be \*.CR2 for Canon, \*.NEF for Nikon, or \*.ARW for Sony.

#### Keywords:

- Your last name, Province, Post-Secondary, Part 4, Photojournalism

#### Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part4\_01.RAW  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part4\_02.RAW  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part4\_03.RAW

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### Part 5: Composite Image

#### Due Day 1, Specific time TBD (2 photographs)

#### Objective:

Create a studio portrait with a model provided by the National Technical Committee. At the start of the competition on day one, competitors will be provided with a reference image to use as a guide. Your objective is to faithfully recreate this reference image.





### Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 5 must still be met.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28)**.
- The sequence in which competitors gain access to the model will be determined through a random draw during the orientation session.
- Competitors will be allocated time for studio setup, a dedicated session with the model (approximately 20 minutes), followed by an opportunity to disassemble the studio, and time to post-process their final image.
- It's important to note that the specific allocated time for each segment may vary depending on the final number of competitors in the competition.
- The available studio space and equipment will include the following:
  - A backdrop.
  - Three studio strobes equipped with a transmitter.
  - Two LED lights.
  - A range of light modifiers, such as softboxes, grids and umbrellas.
  - Five light stands.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge, Adobe RGB 1998 colour space) along with the **original RAW file** used in the composite.
- It's important to be aware that the file extension for your RAW submissions will vary according to the brand and model of the camera you use. For instance, it may be \*.CR2 for Canon, \*.NEF for Nikon, or \*.ARW for Sony.

### Keywords:

- Your last name, Province, Post-Secondary, Part 5, Studio, Composite

### Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part5\_01.jpg  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part5\_01.RAW





## Day 2:

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### Part 6: Environmental Portrait

#### Due Day 2, Specific time TBD (2 photographs)

##### Objective:

- Create a portrait using mixed lighting (ambient and strobe) with a model provided by the National Technical Committee.

##### Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 6 must still be met.
- The use of mixed lighting, combining ambient and strobe lighting, is mandatory for this assignment, and competitors must provide their own portable lighting equipment (required). While using modifiers for your lights, such as softboxes and umbrellas, is optional, it is strongly recommended.
- Competitors will be allocated time for preparation (without a model), a dedicated session with the model lasting approximately 30 minutes, and a specific time allocation for post-processing their final image.
- The sequence in which competitors gain access to the model will be determined through a random draw during the orientation session.
- It's important to note that the specific allocated time for each segment may vary depending on the final number of competitors in the competition, but the total time from start to finish will be approximately 90 minutes.
- You may include additional elements, such as props, in your photograph. However, these props must either be items you brought with you to the competition or ones that are readily available on-site during the competition.
- The model's face must remain unaltered, with no physical modifications such as face paint, stickers, or makeup.
- The final retouched photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge, Adobe RGB 1998 colour space) along with the **original RAW file**.
- It's important to be aware that the file extension for your RAW submissions will vary according to the brand and model of the camera you use. For instance, it may be \*.CR2 for Canon, \*.NEF for Nikon, or \*.ARW for Sony.



**Keywords:**

- Your last name, Province, Post-Secondary, Part 6, Environmental

**Naming Convention:**

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**

ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part6\_01.jpg

ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part6\_01.RAW

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**Part 7: Personal Project Triptych**

**Due End of Day 2 (3 photographs)**

**Objective:**

- Create a **series of three related photographs** that share a common theme, to be displayed as a unified collection.
- The theme for this project will be revealed during orientation.

**Requirements:**

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 7 must still be met.
- All photographs must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours **(8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Friday, May 29)**.
- Each final photograph **must have** the same aspect ratio and orientation, meaning they must all be either horizontal or vertical, with identical pixel dimensions in both width and height.
- The 3-photograph series will be assessed as a unified collection, **presented left to right** in the order of their respective numbers, for viewing, judging, and scoring.
- The final photographs must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge, Adobe 1998 colour space).



**Keywords:**

- Your last name, Province, Post-Secondary, Part 7, Personal Project

**Naming Convention:**

- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**

ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part7\_01.jpg

ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part7\_02.jpg

ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part7\_03.jpg

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**Part 8: Mystery Object 2**

**Due End of Day 2 (1 photograph)**

**Objective:**

- Create a photograph featuring a **mystery object** revealed at the start of Day 2. This object must be the **main subject** or a major contributing element to the main subject.

**Requirements:**

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- The photograph must be taken **within the designated competition area** (as defined during orientation) and during competition hours (**8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Friday, May 29**).
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge, in Adobe RGB 1998 colour space).

**Keywords:**

- Your last name, Province, Post-Secondary, Part 8, Mystery2



### **Naming Convention:**

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part8\_01.jpg
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## **Part 9: Portrait Editing**

### **Due End of Day 2 (1 photograph)**

#### **Objective:**

- Refine and enhance a portrait photograph provided by the National Technical Committee to create a polished, well-edited image.

#### **Requirements:**

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 9 must still be met.
- All competitors will use the same original photograph.
- The final version must remain in full colour (no sepia, duotone, B&W, etc.).
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge, adhering to an 8x10 aspect ratio, and in Adobe RGB 1998 colour space).

#### **Keywords:**

- No keywords need to be assigned to this image.

#### **Naming Convention:**

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**  
ProvinceAbbreviation\_Lastname\_part9\_01.jpg
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## **Part 10: Entire Portfolio**

- **No submission is required for this part**, as all necessary photographs have already been submitted in the previous nine parts.
- The entire portfolio will be reviewed for **quality, style, and consistency**.
- Each competitor's images will be displayed together on screen and judged as a cohesive body of work.

## Overall Breakdown

### Orientation

- **Part 1: Lighting Magic** – 2 photographs  
*(Pre-Assignment - Due at the beginning of orientation)*

### Day 1:

- **Part 2: HDR Architecture** – 4 photographs
- **Part 3: Mystery Object 1** – 1 photograph
- **Part 4: Photojournalistic Triptych** – 3 photographs
- **Part 5: Composite Image** – 2 photographs

### Day 2:

- **Part 6: Environmental Portrait** – 2 photographs
- **Part 7: Personal Project Triptych** – 3 photographs
- **Part 8: Mystery Object 2** – 1 photograph
- **Part 9: Portrait Editing** – 1 photograph
- **Part 10: Entire Portfolio** – No submission required

### Total Submissions:

- **Orientation:** 2 photographs
- **Day 1:** 10 photographs
- **Day 2:** 7 photographs
- **Total for Entire Competition:** 19 photographs

### Note:

The **designated competition area** includes the building where the competition takes place, as well as the surrounding grounds such as eating areas, foyers, etc.



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