



Project
Photography

SECONDARY



Secondary Competitor Orientation - May 27, 2026

(Exact time to be announced)

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-S" for "Alberta-Secondary."
- **Lighting equipment** (optional)
- **Pen and paper** (for taking notes during orientation and various information briefings)
- **Printed 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:

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**.



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-S” for “Alberta-Secondary”).
- **Ensure that all final files are named in the following format:**
ProvincialAbbreviation_LastName_part1_01.jpg
ProvincialAbbreviation_LastName_part1_02.jpg

Preparation for Part 1:

- Learn how to work with **strobes/flash units**—including power settings, modifiers, and modeling lights.
- Practice syncing your strobes with your camera (using cables, wireless triggers, or built-in triggering systems).
- Experiment with the **angle and position of your lights** to control the direction and quality of light on your subject.
- Plan your scene: consider background, location, and lighting for impact.

Part 2: Double Exposure Image Assignment

Due End of Day 1 (3 photographs)

Objective:

- Create a double exposure image using **photo editing software**, integrating a **silhouette of a human subject** with a unique background. The final image can be either in **colour or black and white**.

Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted, but all submission requirements outlined in Part 2 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. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28**).
- Competitors will be evaluated on their creativity, technical proficiency, and composition.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge) along with the **two original RAW files**.
- 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.

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

Preparation for Part 2:

- Practice creating **double exposures** using silhouettes and backgrounds.
- Plan your approach for **capturing and merging the images** within the competition area.
- Brainstorm creative ideas for **impactful compositions** and experiment with blending techniques in editing.

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).

Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part3_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 3:

- Practice brainstorming **quick ideas** and composing images with unexpected subjects.
- Experiment with background selection and lighting for **creative impact**.

Part 4: Personal Project Triptych

Due End of Day 1 (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.



- All photographs 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.
- The final photographs must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:

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

ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part4_01.jpg

ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part4_02.jpg

ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part4_03.jpg

Preparation for Part 4:

- Brainstorm ideas for a **cohesive theme**.
- Practice selecting backgrounds and experimenting with **composition** for storytelling.
- Plan and practice to ensure the series has a unified **visual flow**.

Part 5: Magazine Cover Assignment

Due End of Day 1 (1 photograph)

Objective:



- Capture an **innovative, artistic photograph** that complements a **pre-designed magazine cover layout**. The layout will include text and a theme, which must be aligned with your photograph.
- Magazine cover overlay will already contain a theme based upon **headlines, bylines and font layout**. The overlay will be provided to you.
- Competitors must make effective use of composition to create a visually appealing photograph that complements the magazine cover overlay, **adjusting cropping and positioning** as needed.

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 photograph must align with the **magazine's theme** and **composition**.
- Competitors will be **evaluated on their creativity, connection to theme, technical proficiency, composition, and alignment** with the magazine cover layout.
- 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 competition areas, **competitors must acquire the necessary safety equipment** from the safety office (e.g. hard hat, toe caps, etc) as required.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part5_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 5:

- Practice taking **styled photographs** that complement pre-existing layouts and designs.



- Focus on **composition and cropping** to fit within the given space.

Day 2:

Part 6: Minimalist Monochrome Assignment

Due End of Day 2 (1 photograph)

Objective:

- Produce a striking black-and-white minimalist photograph that emphasizes the elegance, beauty, and simplicity of one subject: **Eyes or Hands** (choose only one).
- The composition must effectively utilize negative space to enhance the visual impact and convey a strong sense of minimalism.

Requirements:

- The unlimited use of editing software is permitted to adjust contrast, exposure, and tones to achieve the desired minimalist effect.
- 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)**.
- Competitors will be evaluated on their creativity, connection to minimalistic theme, technical proficiency, composition and impact.
- The final photograph must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part6_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 6:



- Choose a subject (Eyes or Hands) and brainstorm creative, minimalist compositions.
 - Focus on **lighting and negative space** to emphasize your subject.
-

Part 7: Photojournalistic Style Triptych (in camera, no editing)

Due End of Day 2 (3 photographs)

Objective:

- Capture **three images within one skill competition area** 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**.
- 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.



Naming Convention:

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

ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part7_01.RAW

ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part7_02.RAW

ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part7_03.RAW

Preparation for Part 7:

- Plan and practice capturing **natural, candid moments**.
 - Experiment with **natural lighting** and **composition** to enhance the storytelling.
-

Part 8: Portrait with Model in Studio

Due Day 2 - TBD (1 photograph)

Objective:

- Create a **studio portrait** featuring a model provided by the National Technical Committee.

Requirements:

- The unlimited use of photo editing software is permitted.
- 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 15 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.
- 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 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).

Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part8_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 8:

- Practice **studio lighting setups** and **posing**.
- Focus on effective **composition** and **lighting techniques** for a professional portrait.

Part 9: 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 photographs must be submitted in **JPEG format** (1920px on the longest edge).

Naming Convention:

- **Ensure that the final file is named in the following format:**
ProvinceAbbreviation_Lastname_part9_01.jpg

Preparation for Part 9:

- Practice brainstorming **quick ideas** and composing images with unexpected subjects.
- Experiment with background selection and lighting for **creative impact**.

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 on Day 1*)

Day 1:

- **Part 2: Double Exposure Image**– 3 photographs



- **Part 3: Mystery Object 1** – 1 photograph
- **Part 4: Personal Project Triptych** – 3 photographs
- **Part 5: Magazine Cover** – 1 photograph

Day 2:

- **Part 6: Minimalist Monochrome** – 1 photograph
- **Part 7: Photojournalistic Triptych** – 3 photographs
- **Part 8: Studio Portrait Model** – 1 photograph
- **Part 9: Mystery Object 2** – 1 photograph
- **Part 10: Entire Portfolio** – No submission required

Total Submissions:

- **Orientation:** 2 photographs
- **Day 1:** 8 photographs
- **Day 2:** 6 photographs
- **Total for Entire Competition:** 16 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.*

