**iPhone Photography Class**

**Post Capture Editing**

Working in Photos on your iPhone is an important thing. When you snap your shutter to capture an image, your job isn’t done. There are always ways to make your photographs better looking, stronger, more succinct and more effective in highlighting your subject and telling your story.

**The Adjustment Panel (Very Important):**

The Auto or **“Magic Wand Tool”** is a good place to start as it uses a type of HDR to make the photo look better. This works pretty well, but I’m of the mindset that I know how I want my photographs to look and I can bring them to that point better than a mindless hand-held computer using its built-in algorithms.

If you use the Magic Wand tool, you’ll see a slider beneath it that will increase or decrease some of its effects.

**“Exposure”** Will do a global change and either darken or lighten your photo by using the slider bar below the icon. Works more on the highlights than the shadows of your photo.

**“Brilliance”** Adjusts a photo to make it look richer and more vibrant, it can brighten (or darken) dark areas, pulling in highlights, and can add contrast to reveal hidden detail in either the highlights or shadows.

**“Highlights”** Tends to either lighten or intensifythe lighter tones within your photograph.

**“Shadows”** Will primarily deepen or lighten the shadows in a photo. I often use this as a sort of “post capture fill light” to lighten up some shadows to allow detail to come through. This can also be used to deepen shadows and often times will increase the apparent contrast of a photograph.

**“Contrast”** Increases or decreases the relative difference between the light and dark areas of a photograph.

**“Brightness”** This changes the overall lightness or darkness in an image, but it seems to help preserve the luminosity and contrast in an image better than changing the exposure. Experiment with this. I often use both of these adjustments on the same photograph.

**“Black Point”** This sets the threshold at which the darkest parts of an image become completely black and without detail. Adjusting the black point in a photograph can help to improve a pale or washed-out image.

**“Saturation”** Describes the intensity of colors and how vivid or muted they look in your photos. Be careful as moving the slider to the right, increasing the saturation can give a cartoonish feel to your photographs. Moving the slider to the left will reduce the intensity of the color to the point of changing your image into a greyscale or black and white photo. Desaturating judiciously can give a dreamy feel to an image like a half-forgotten memory.

**“Vibrance”** You can think of this as a sort of smart saturation tool. It will increase the vividness of a photo like the saturation tool does, but its algorithm keeps the overall toning of the image from seeming too oversaturated. This is a good tool to use when photographing people as it doesn’t seem to affect the skin tones very much.

**“Warmth”** This slider adjusts the color temperature in your image. Sliding to the right adds a wonderful yellow/gold tone to your image (think warm sunlight) while moving to the left cools off your tones by adding a cyan cast.

**“Tint”** Similar to the warmth slider this is where you can add a red/magenta cast to your photo by sliding to the right, or adding a greenish cast by sliding to the left. Note: both of these sliders work by adding or subtracting colors that are on opposite sides of the color wheel.

**“Sharpness”** Sharpness increases the contrast to the edges within your photograph. Think of this tool working on a micro-scale. The best way to see how this tool is working is to zoom in to see a detail in your image and make your adjustments while looking at just a small area.

**“Definition”** Something like the sharpness tool, but it works on the macro scale. To adjust definition in your image don’t zoom in, look at your photograph as a whole and use the adjustment slider to the point where you feel your image has improved.

**“Noise”** Noise is a digital artifact that occurs generally in the darker areas of a digital image. Sometimes it shows up as an odd pixelization in the shadow areas of your photograph, but as our DSLRs and iPhone cameras get better and better every year, this digital noise problem seems to decrease. To get rid of the digital noise zoom in a bit to a shadowed area where you’ve noticed some noise, then move the slider slowly to the right. You’ll see the noise decrease, but it will also decrease the sharpness of your photo, so you’ll have to move back and forth between both tools finessing your image.

**“Vignette”** This tool is great for leading the eye. It creates a shadow around the edges of your photograph, leaving the center light, gently driving the viewer’s eye to your subject. This is another tool that only needs a hint of an adjustment to work, in other words, don’t use it so much that becomes obvious. This is also a tool that in the world of analog photography has been in use since its earliest days, nearly 200 years ago. It’s also a technique that was very well known to painters during the Renaissance. So, in other words, it’s something that works pretty darn well.

**The Filters Panel:**

Choices include-

Original, Vivid, Vivid Warm, Vivid Cool, Dramatic, Dramatic Warm, Dramatic Cool, Mono, Silvertone, and Noir. The strength of each of these is controlled by the slider at the bottom of the screen. By default, each of these filters is set at 100%. The last three filters are all greyscale images and will gradually change to color as you move their sliders. This is an automated and quick way to add some style or feel to your photos, but I don’t think it will do as good of a job as you can do once you get used to making your changes manually.

**The Crop Panel (Very important):**

This is where you adjust the shape of your final image.
The double triangles with the arrow in the top left corner will flip the photo horizontally.
The box with the arrow at the corner will rotate your image.

Click on the little group of boxes inside each other and you will find the ability to choose preset image ratios. For the most part I use either the square format or the freeform options nearly exclusively. The nice thing about freeform is that when you crop your image you’re not constrained to a particular shape or ratio. The preset image ratios are handy for printing photographs that need to be a particular size to fit into a matte or frame.
You will also see a vertical and a horizontal rectangle that will tell you whether you’re working with a photograph that is in either landscape (horizontal) or portrait (vertical) format.

Next at the top of the panel you’ll see a pen tip inside a circle. This is the “mark-up” option where you can draw on, write on, or sign your photographs.