

If you love people photography, it's time to challenge yourself. Taking pictures of people you don't know is where the rubber meets the road in terms of photography as a social art form. And the image is only the beginning; your camera becomes a catalyst for unexpected connections.



SETTINGS

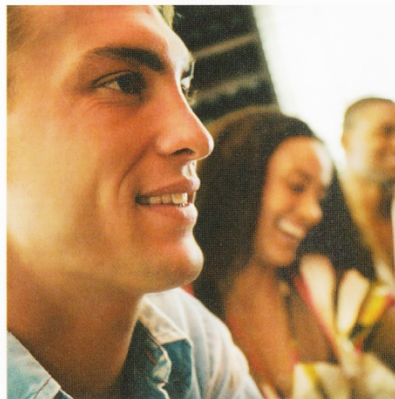
- flash off
- PAS: Use a portrait mode.
- DSLR: Use an auto mode or an aperture priority mode. Practice beforehand with whatever settings you choose; don't get distracted in the heat of the moment.
- Smartphone: This assignment can be challenging. People tend to be more suspicious if you want to photograph them with your phone.

LET'S GO!

1. Photograph twenty-five strangers.
2. This could be twenty-five by the end of the year, or one new stranger per week or month, and so on – whatever you think you can accomplish. In any case, this should be a long-term project. (In this case, it will need to be a short-term project – a couple of weeks at the most).
3. Talk to your subjects and engage them by asking permission and telling them what you are doing. These shouldn't be done sneakily; you need to become a part of the image.
4. Bring a notebook to record time, place, and their names. Having a business card to hand out also helps break down barriers.
5. Listen first; be patient and try to draw out their story. Actually taking the shots should be the last thing you do, not the first.

HAND IN ASSIGNMENT

1. Hand in a 25" x 25" collage of your 25 strangers.
2. For your write up, write about each stranger – what is their name, when did you take the shot, where did you take the shot – explain who your stranger is?



Look for natural photo situations. Tourist areas or events work well, or places where people are at leisure and more likely to talk to strangers.