

CREATIVE LIGHTING ASSIGNMENT GUIDE

In this assignment, you'll create three lighting setups:

- **Clamshell lighting** (beauty/headshot look)
- **Double side-lighting** (dramatic/physique-style portrait)
- **A background lighting effect** (independent from subject lighting)

Work through each setup one light at a time. Take notes on camera and flash settings, modifier choices, distances, and creative observations. Behind-the-scenes photos of your setups can be helpful for future reference.

Setup 1: Clamshell Lighting

This is a classic lighting style for beauty and headshot portraits. Use two lights—one above and one below the subject's face—to surround it with soft, flattering light.

- Position your key light slightly above and angled down toward the subject (e.g., strip softbox or round softbox).
- Add your fill light below the subject, angled upward, being careful not to overpower the key.
- Start with the fill at a lower power setting (e.g., 1/16 if your key is at 1/2).
- Take test shots and evaluate the balance of the lights.
- Avoid creating an underlighting effect—unless you're going for something stylized.

Setup 2: Double Side-Lighting

Double side-lighting emphasizes structure and can add intensity to the subject's form.

- Place one softbox to each side of the subject at roughly the same distance and height.
- Start with equal power on both lights.
- Take a test shot and review the shape and texture created across the subject's form.

Setup 3: Background Lighting Effect

Create a visually interesting background separate from your subject's lighting.

- Use a dedicated light aimed at the background—this could be a bare flash or modified with a snoot, grid, or gel.
- Take a test shot of just the background to dial in the effect.
- Be sure to position the light to avoid spill on your subject.
- Once satisfied, light your subject as normal using a key (and optional fill).
- Experiment with exposure by adjusting ISO or aperture (e.g., increasing ISO to brighten background without changing flash power).

Notes and Submission

Include the following in your submission:

- At least one image for each setup.
- A short summary of your gear, flash settings, camera settings, distances, and modifiers used.
- Any behind-the-scenes photos you'd like to include.
- Your observations about how each setup shaped the final image.