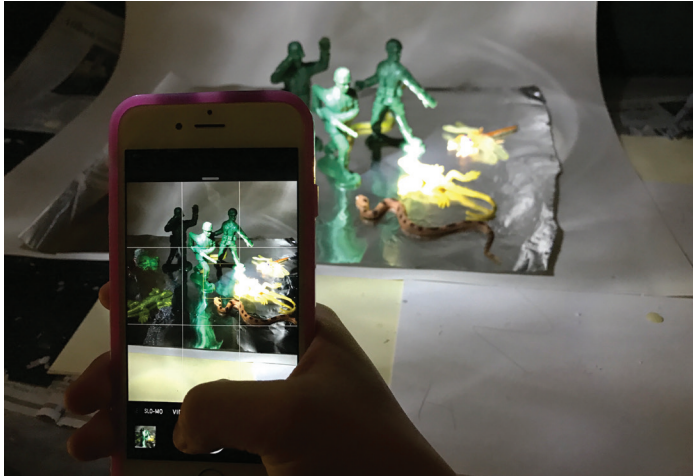


Becoming a Gatherer

through an in-class phone photo shoot!

This is a simple photography lesson to introduce students to using their camera phones in the classroom and teach them to become GATHERERS instead of HUNTERS when finding a subject to photograph. Students work in small groups to focus on team building.



When students enter my classroom, I divide them randomly into groups of four (any size groups will work, I find that smaller numbers work best). Each group receives the following supplies: a variety of different sized flashlights, colored paper (to alter the color of the white light), foil, piece of white poster board, several toy army men, and several plastic dinosaurs. I turn off the lights in the classroom and encourage students to play with staging the toys, reflecting light as well as altering the shadows.



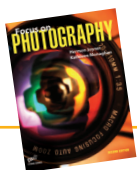
Once students get comfortable with photographing the dinosaurs and army men, hand each group a box of staples. Simply encourage them to play with the staples and see what happens. You'll be amazed at how easily they take the bait and start creating little reflective skylines! They may or may not want to add in the army men and dinosaurs. Let their creativity take them to a whole new level.



Once students have completed the first two exercises, hand each group an odd number of Styrofoam cups. Once again, sit back and watch what happens. They begin to alter the light and really observe the elongated shadows that the cups create!

NOTE: Several days prior to your photo shoot, have students carve random designs out of Styrofoam cups using X-Acto knives. Talk to students about geometric versus organic shapes. On the actual day of photographing, stress the importance of composition, the rule of thirds, as well as using an odd number of objects (cups in this example.)

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