

The Tools of Travel Photography

To make your travel
photos work!

Rules, guides, lessons...

The first one..

arrive early, stay late!

figure things out,

meet the people,

you never know...

Why are you
taking pictures?

Large shopping list
or a singular study?

Quantity vs Quality

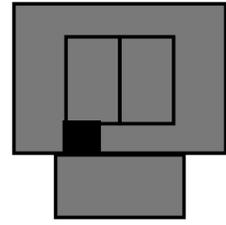
Mood, memory or
marker of your
presence?

Mantras!

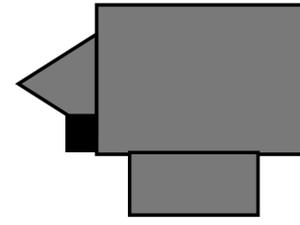
Photographer's
positions and
angle

How much do
you “work”
your situations

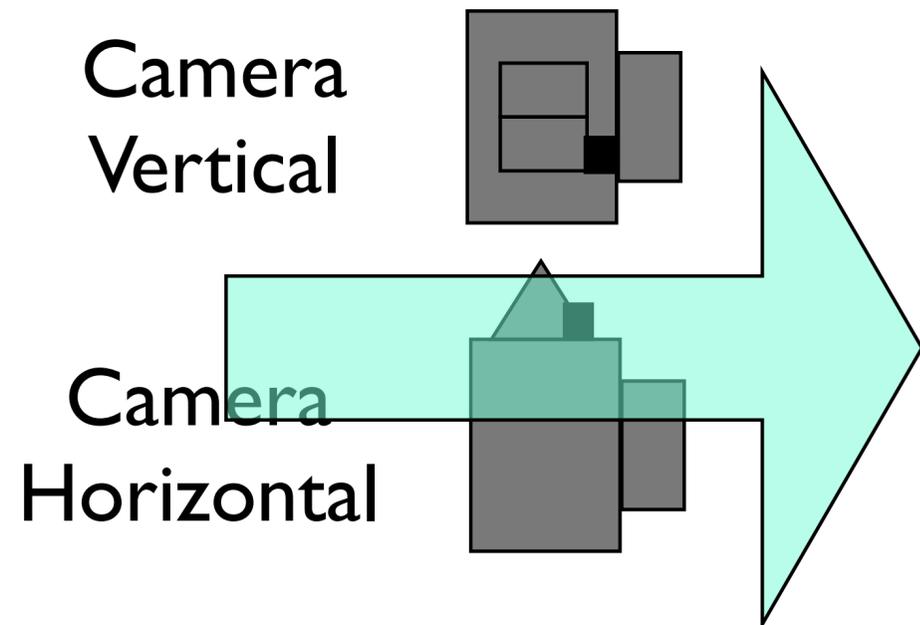
Camera
Vertical



Normal lens
from above,
like a giraffe



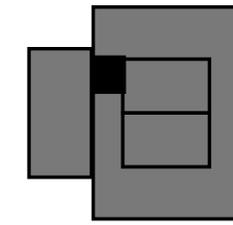
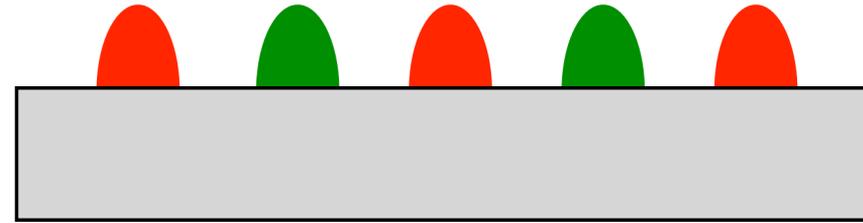
Camera
Horizontal



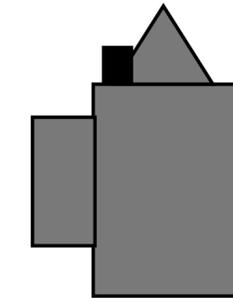
Camera
Vertical

Camera
Horizontal

Normal lens
from the left



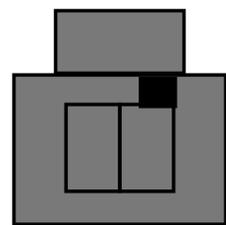
Camera
Vertical



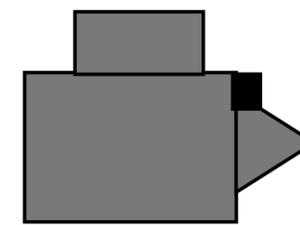
Camera
Horizontal

Normal lens
from the right

Camera
Vertical

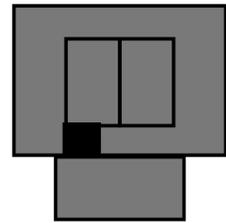


Normal lens
from below,
like a dog

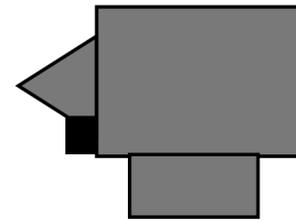


Camera
Horizontal

Camera
Vertical

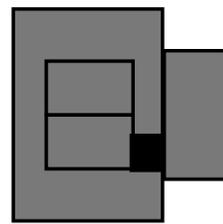


Normal lens
from above,
like a giraffe

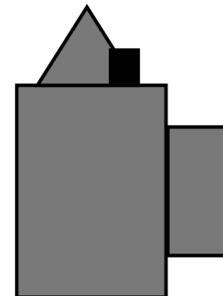


Camera
Horizontal

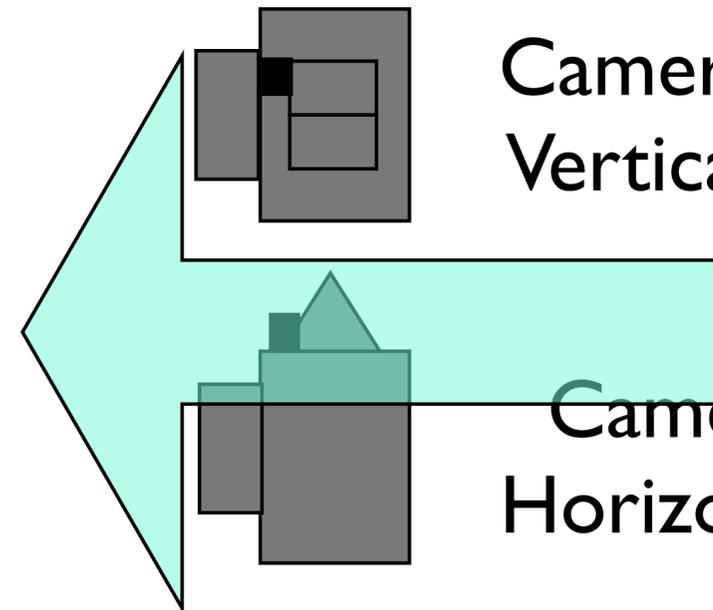
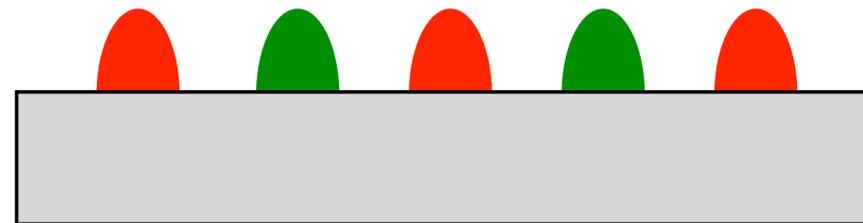
Camera
Vertical



Camera
Horizontal



Normal lens
from the left

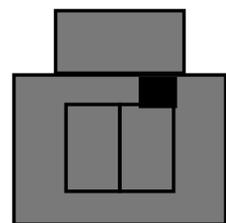


Camera
Vertical

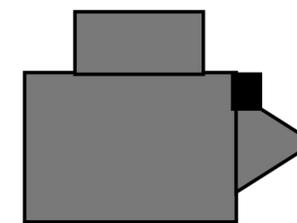
Camera
Horizontal

Normal lens
from the right

Camera
Vertical

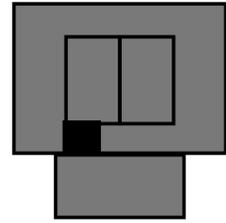


Normal lens
from below,
like a dog

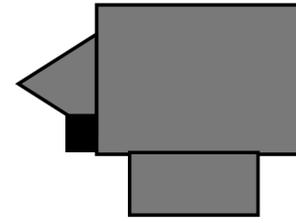


Camera
Horizontal

Camera
Vertical

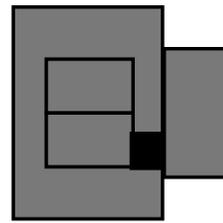


Normal lens
from above,
like a giraffe

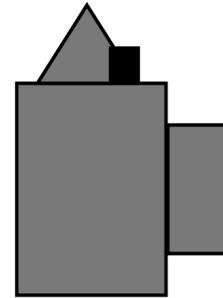


Camera
Horizontal

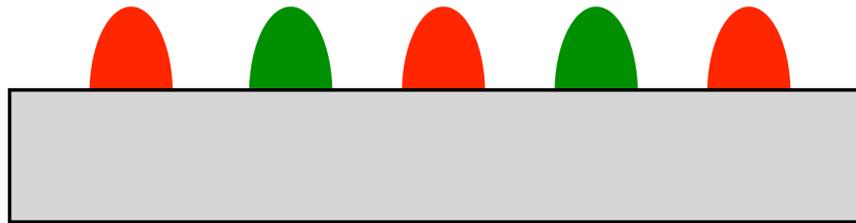
Camera
Vertical



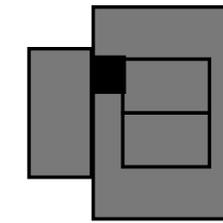
Camera
Horizontal



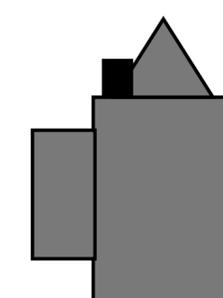
Normal lens
from the left



Camera
Vertical

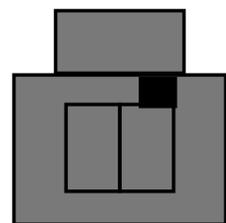


Camera
Horizontal

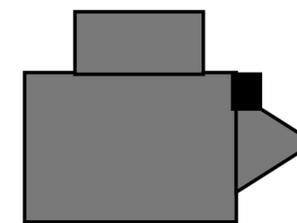


Normal lens
from the right

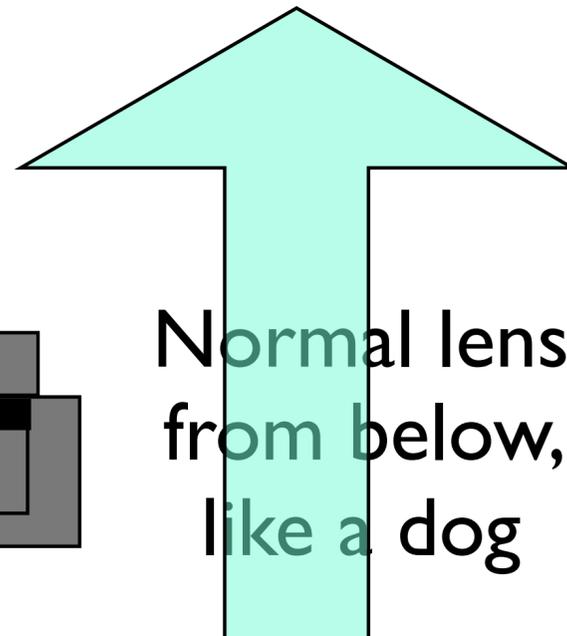
Camera
Vertical



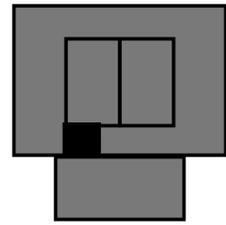
Normal lens
from below,
like a dog



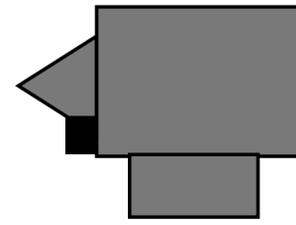
Camera
Horizontal



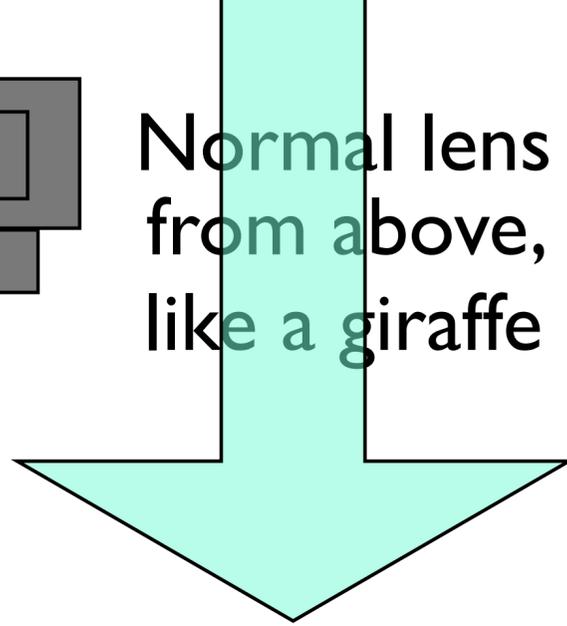
Camera
Vertical



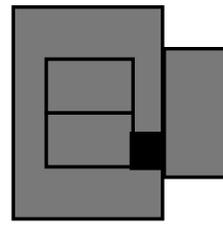
Normal lens
from above,
like a giraffe



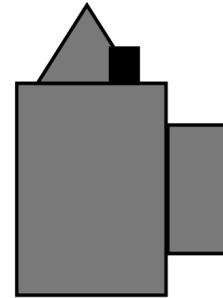
Camera
Horizontal



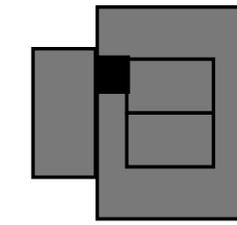
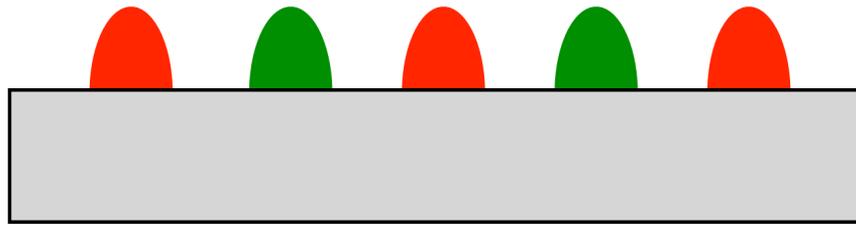
Camera
Vertical



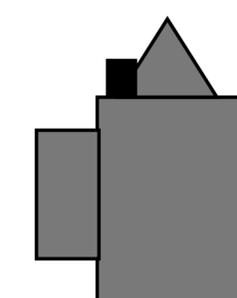
Camera
Horizontal



Normal lens
from the left



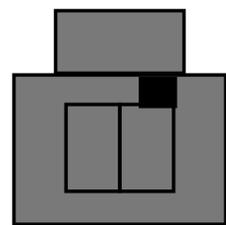
Camera
Vertical



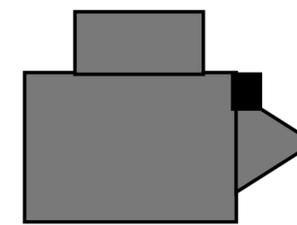
Camera
Horizontal

Normal lens
from the right

Camera
Vertical



Normal lens
from below,
like a dog

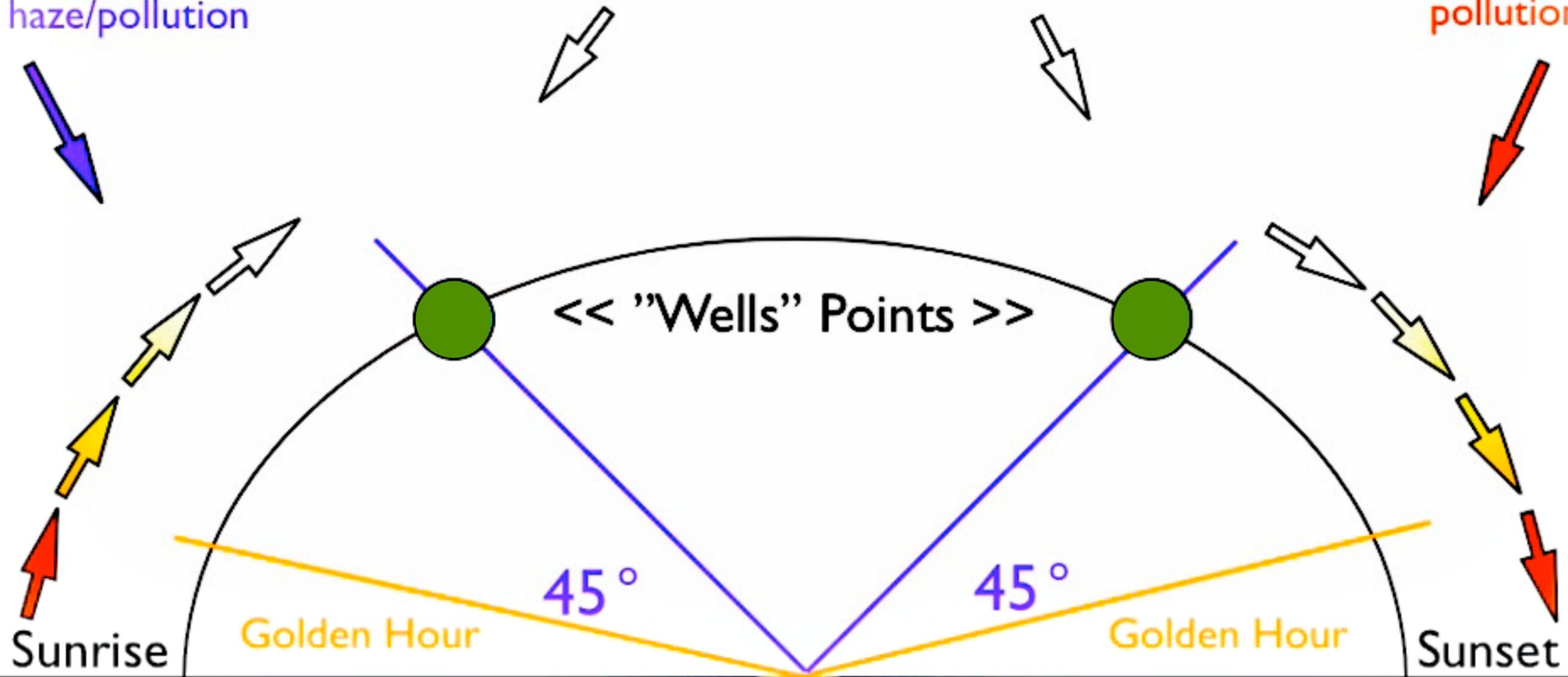


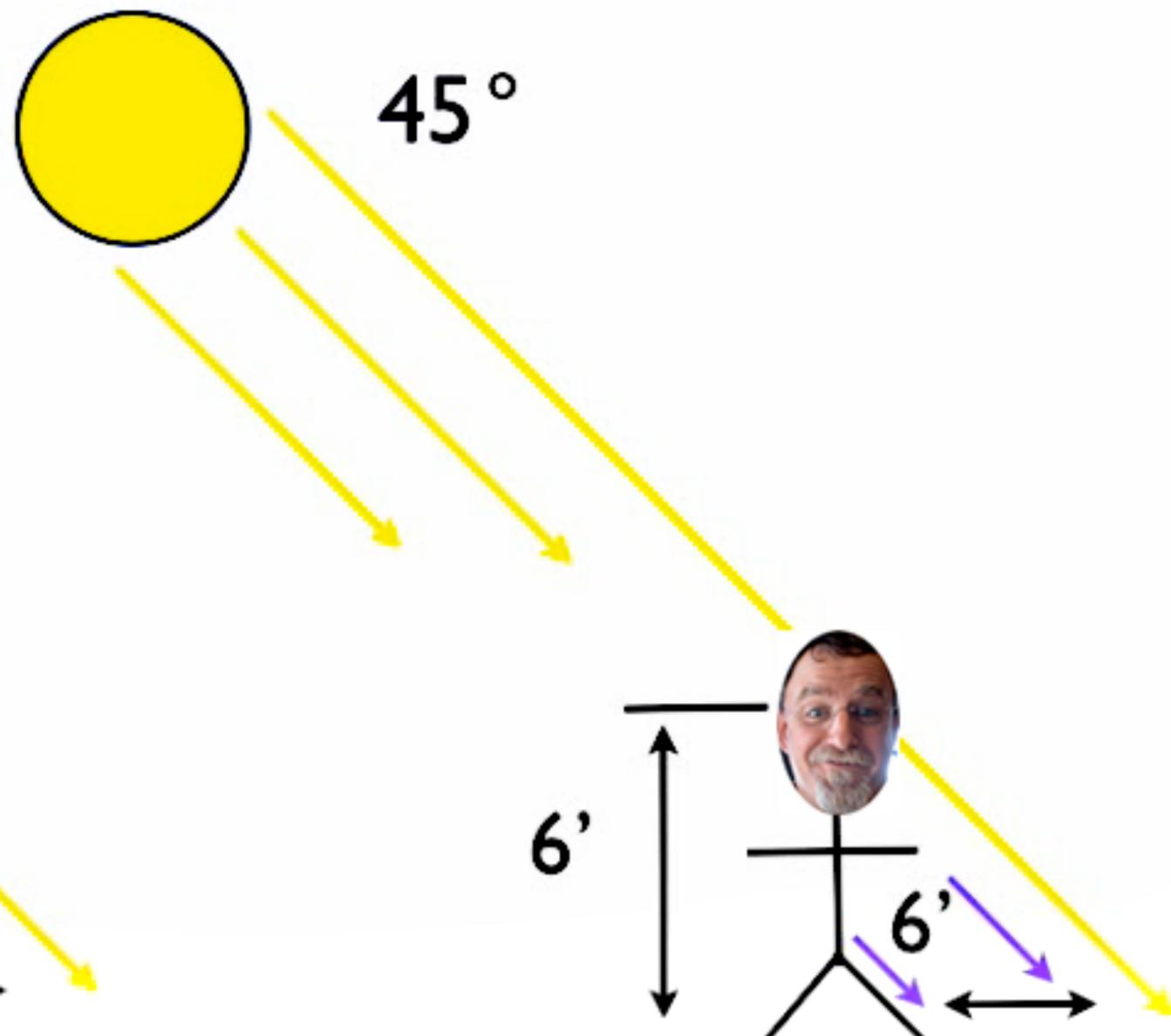
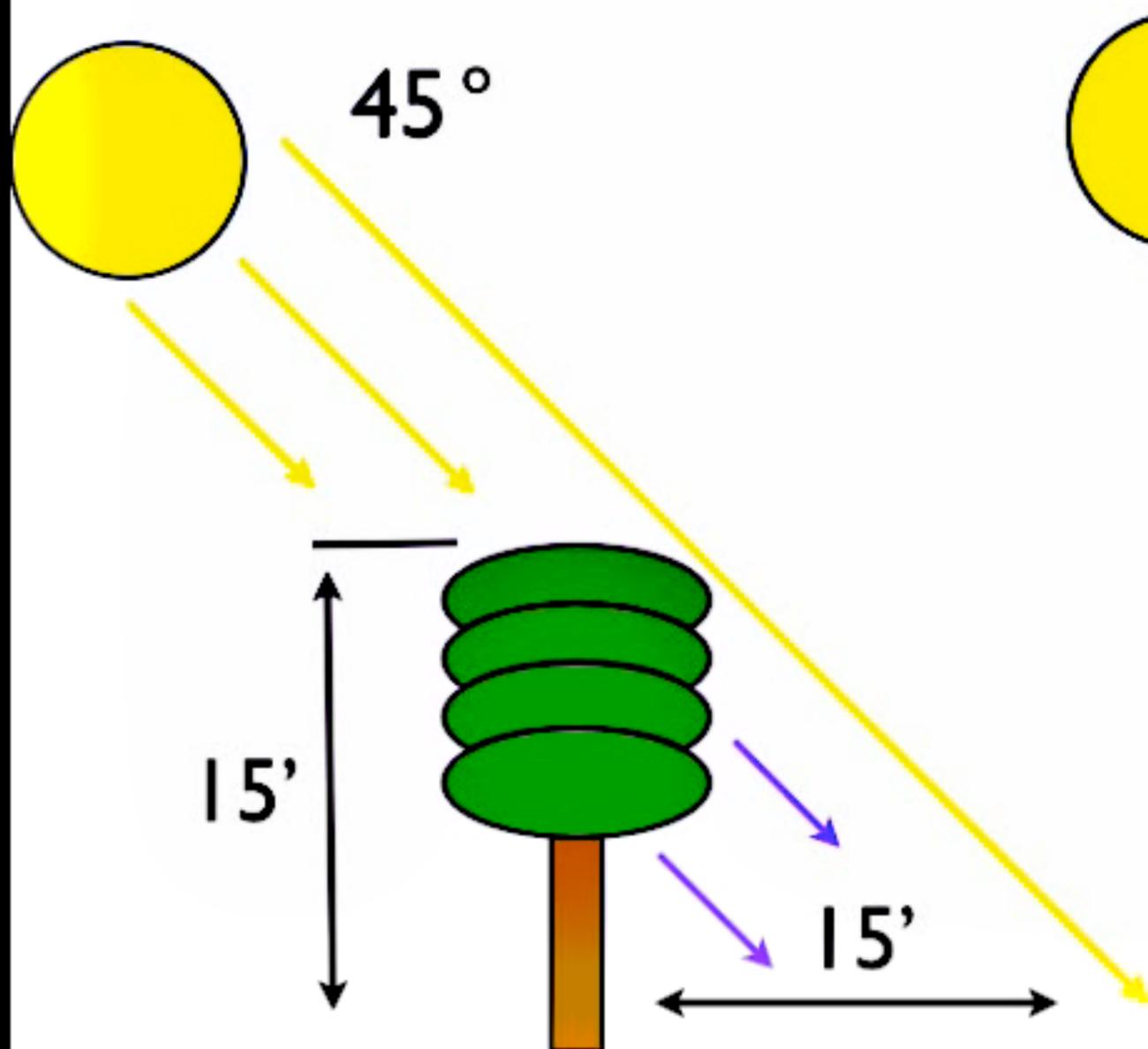
Camera
Horizontal

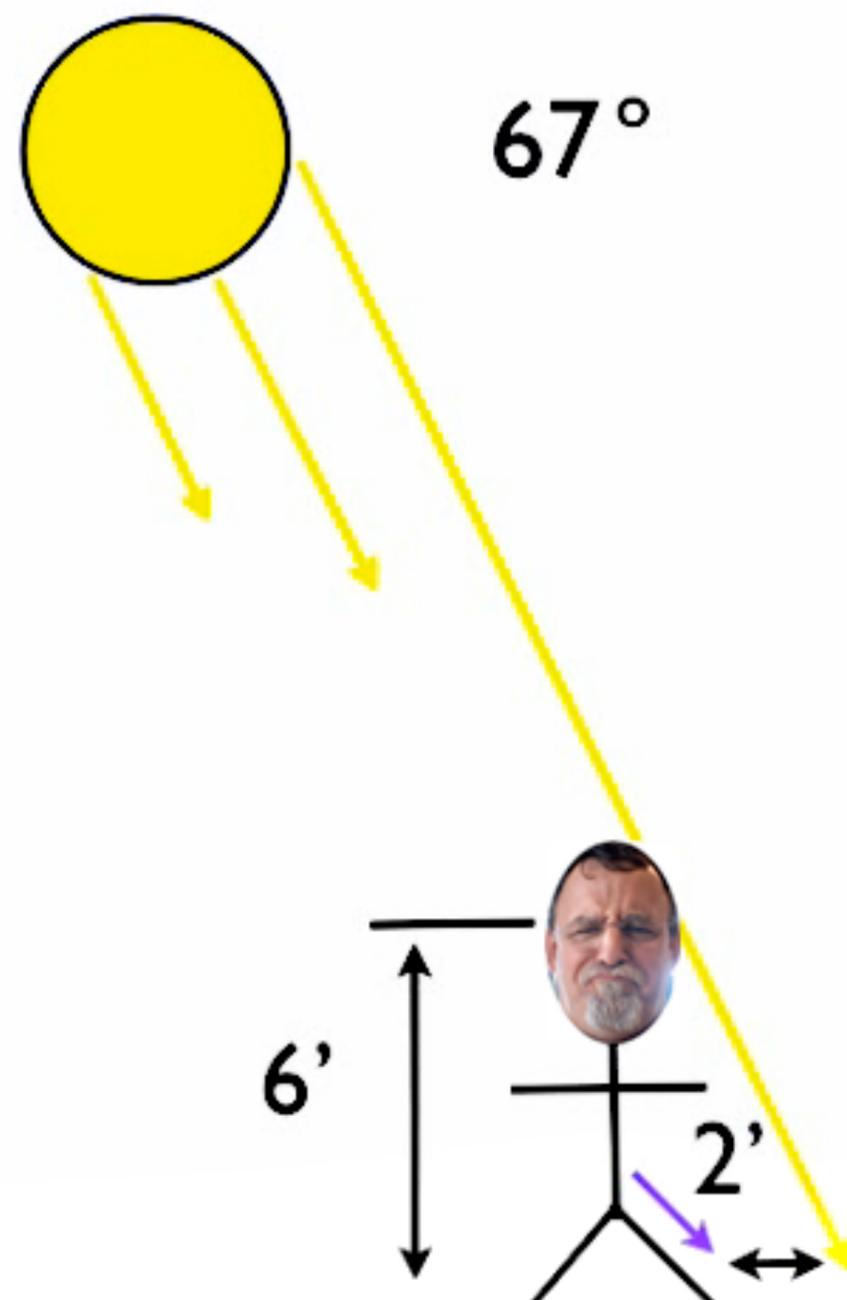
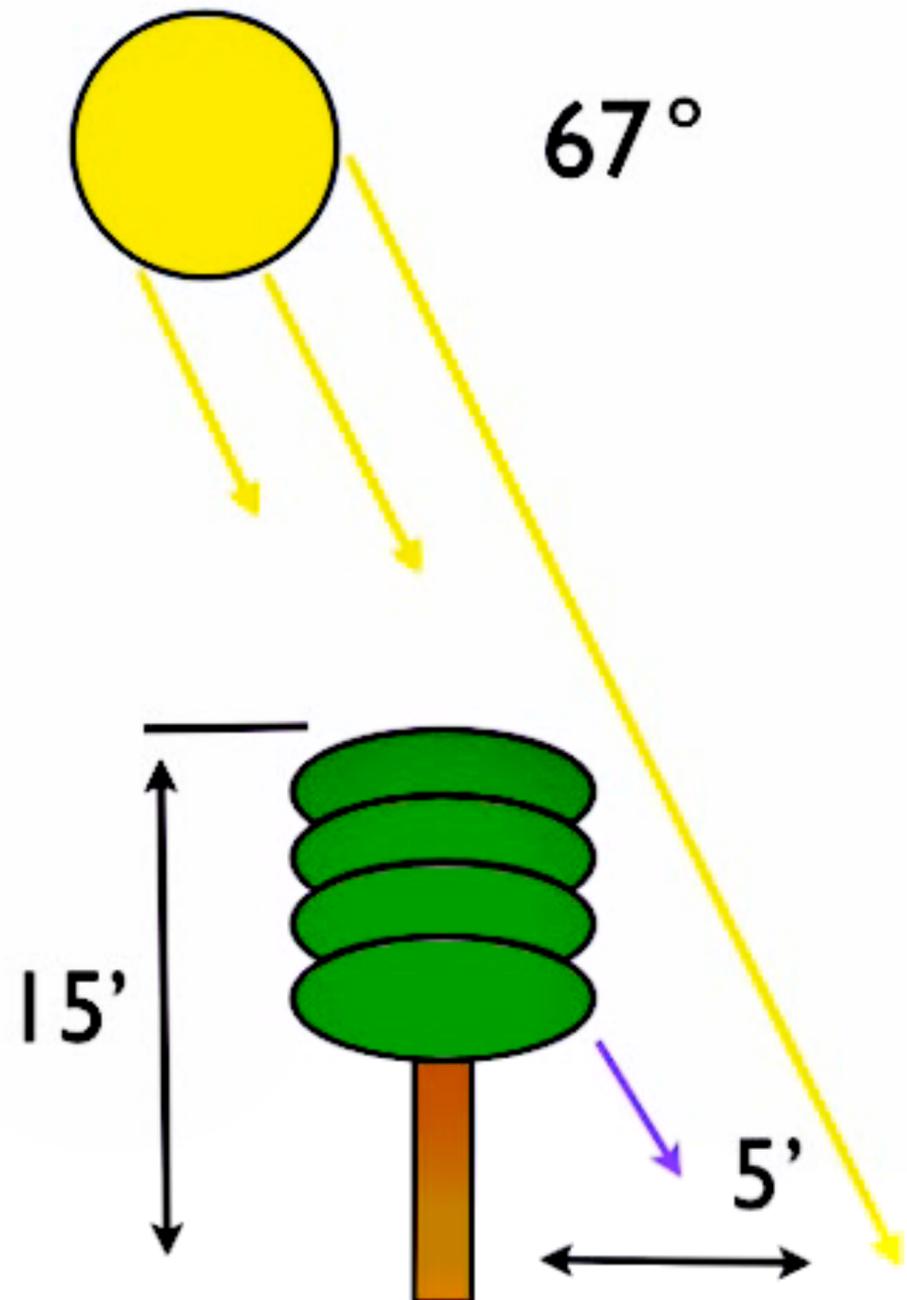
This light is getting stronger and more clear, while gaining saturation and contrast. It often has less humidity, and little or no haze/pollution

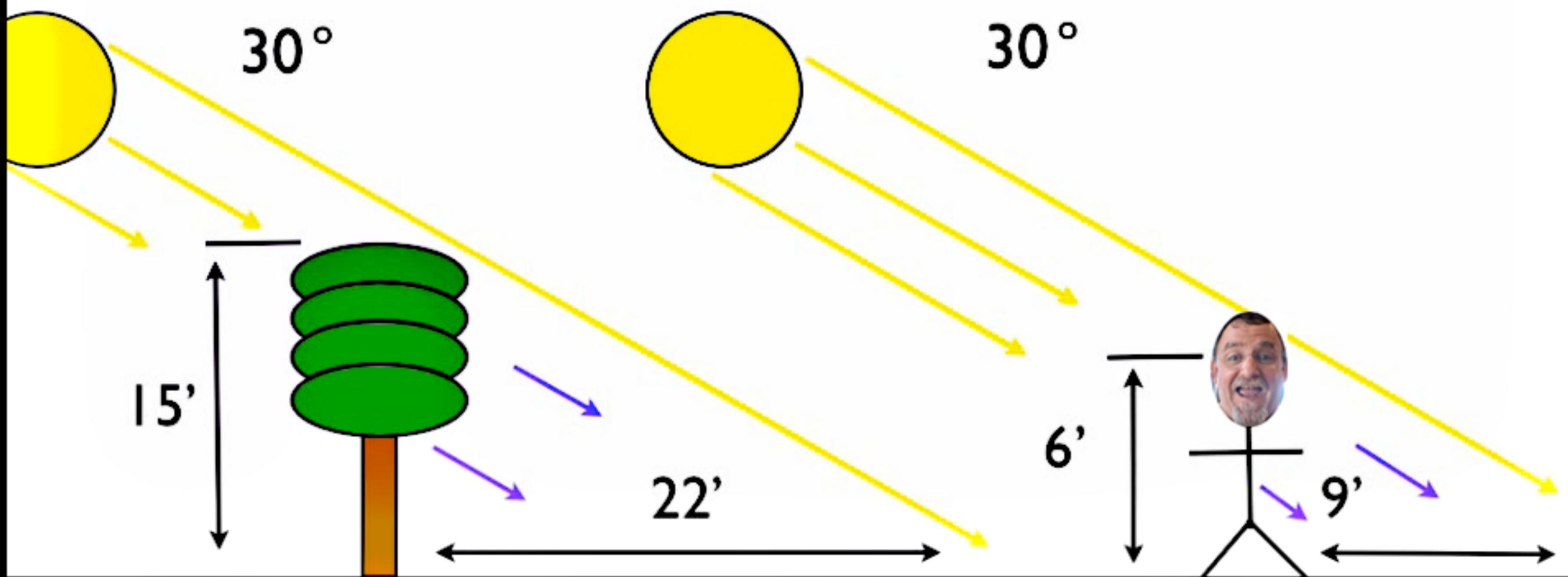
This is when all you get is bad, mid-day light, casting harsh shadows on faces. This is a good time for aerial photos, interior photos, portraits in the shade, or napping, phone calls, e-mailing or coffee.

This light is fading away, with weaker shadows, becoming more red, as it loses saturation and contrast. It often has more humidity, haze and pollution







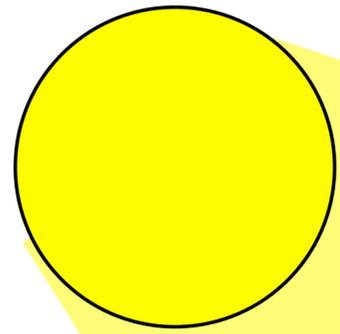


Know the shadow rule:

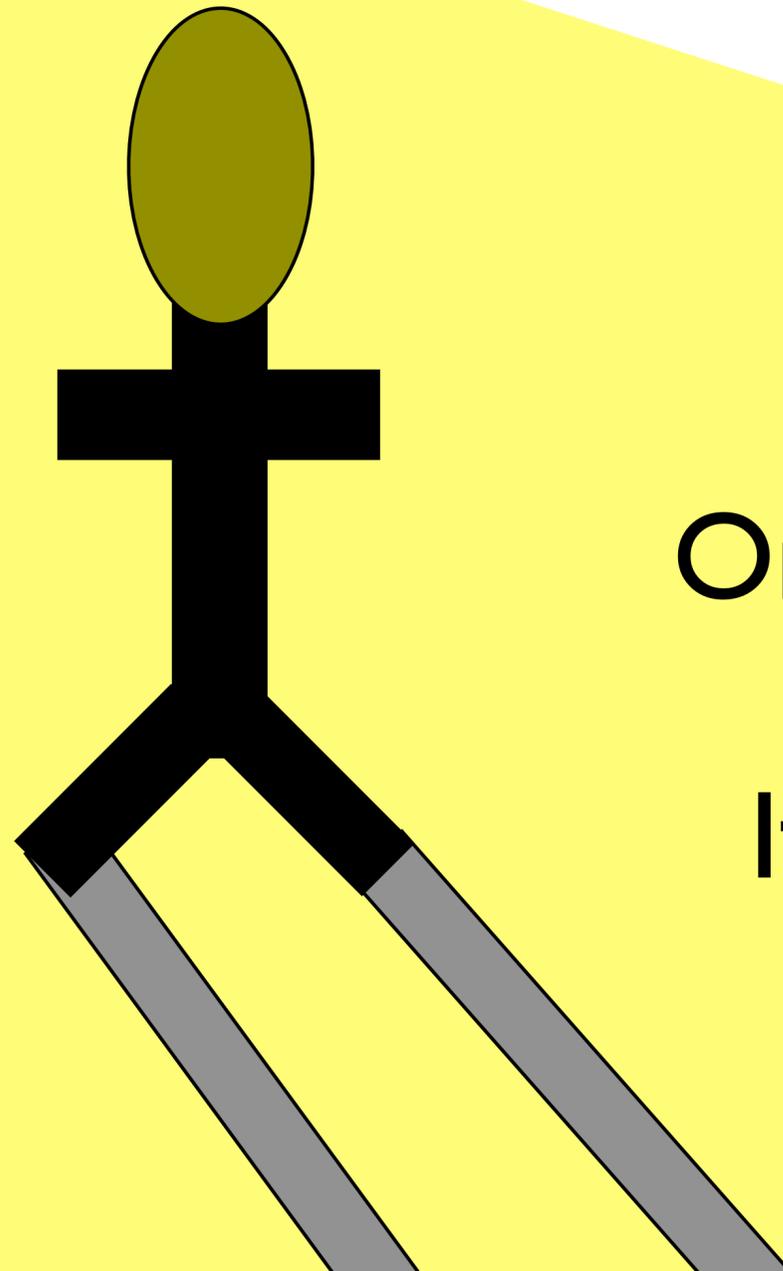
If your shadow is shorter than you are, the sun's rays are at their strongest, and you are more likely to get a dangerous burn!

Short shadow = seek shade

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9671831



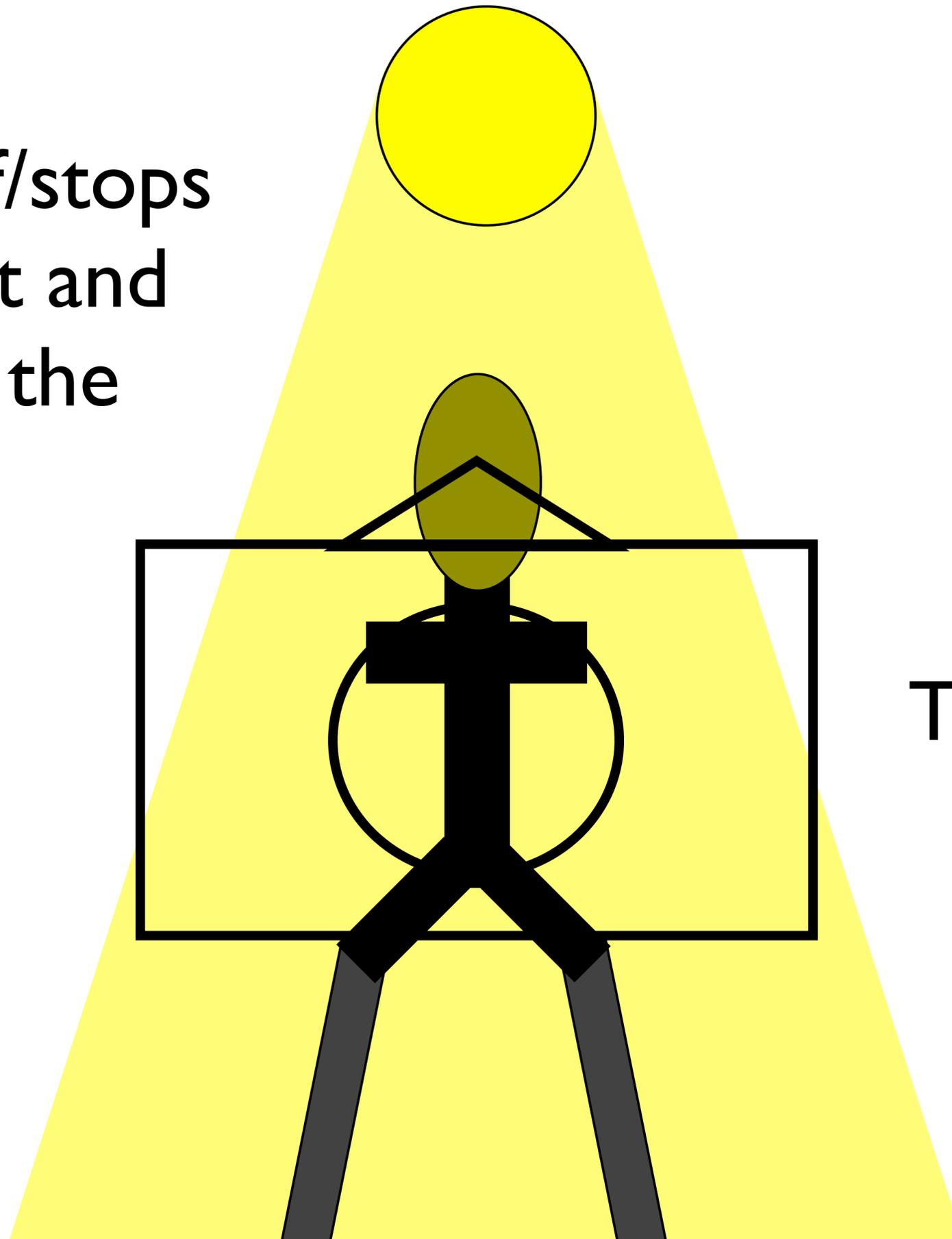
Difference in f/stops
between light and
shadow on the
ground



One or two f/stops

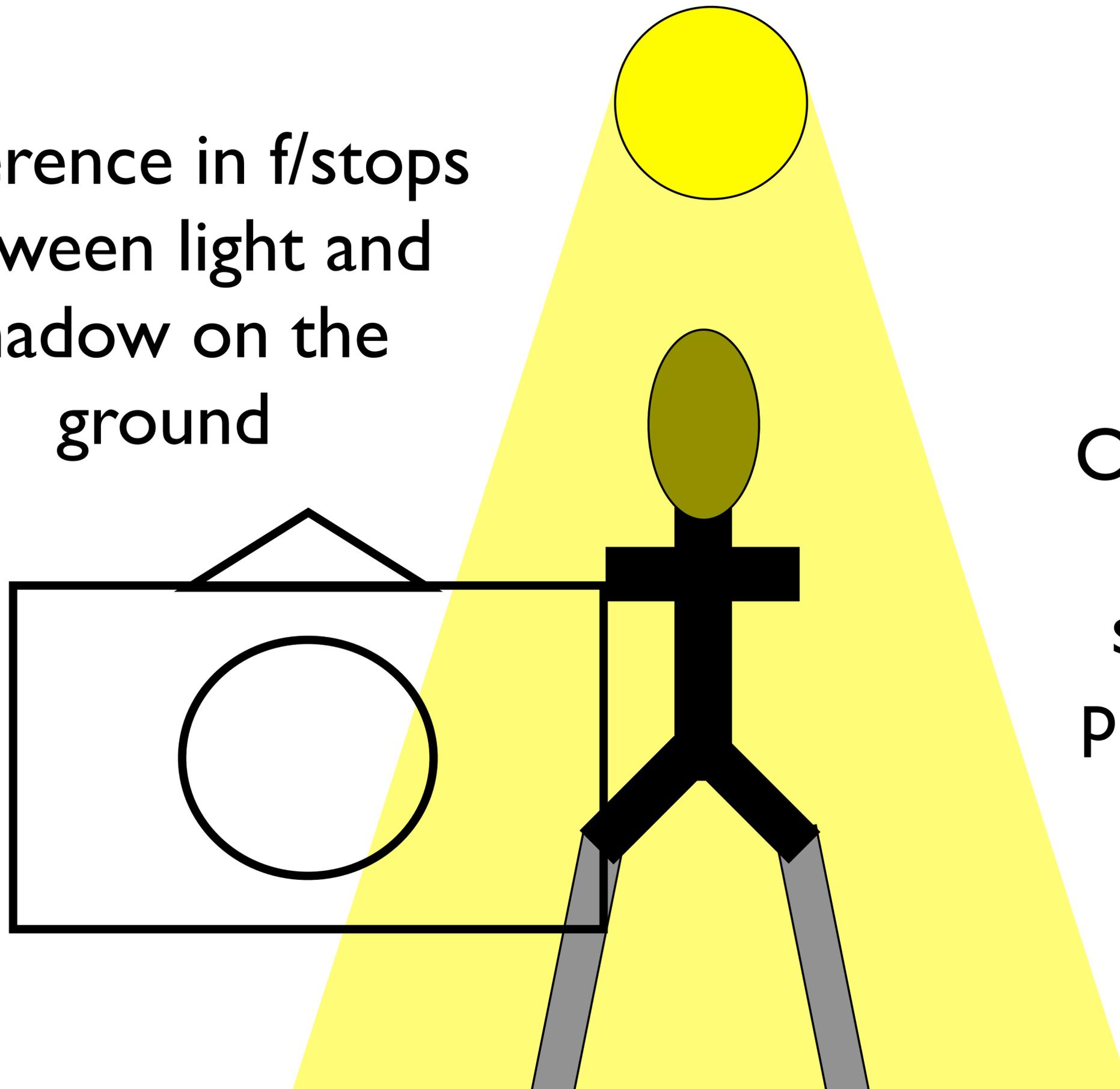
If NOT photographing
“into” the sun

Difference in f/stops
between light and
shadow on the
ground



Three to six f/stops if
positioned straight
on, photographing
“into” the sun

Difference in f/stops
between light and
shadow on the
ground



One or two f/stops if
NOT positioned
straight on, if NOT
photographing “into”
the sun

Importance of detail shots

Visualizing spaces

Framing

The importance of varying lenses

People!

The power of
silhouettes

Conveying a
sense of time

Basics of reflections

Enjoy the journey

The magic
of twilight and/or
night time

The best tripod is
the one you have
with you... a table
top tripod

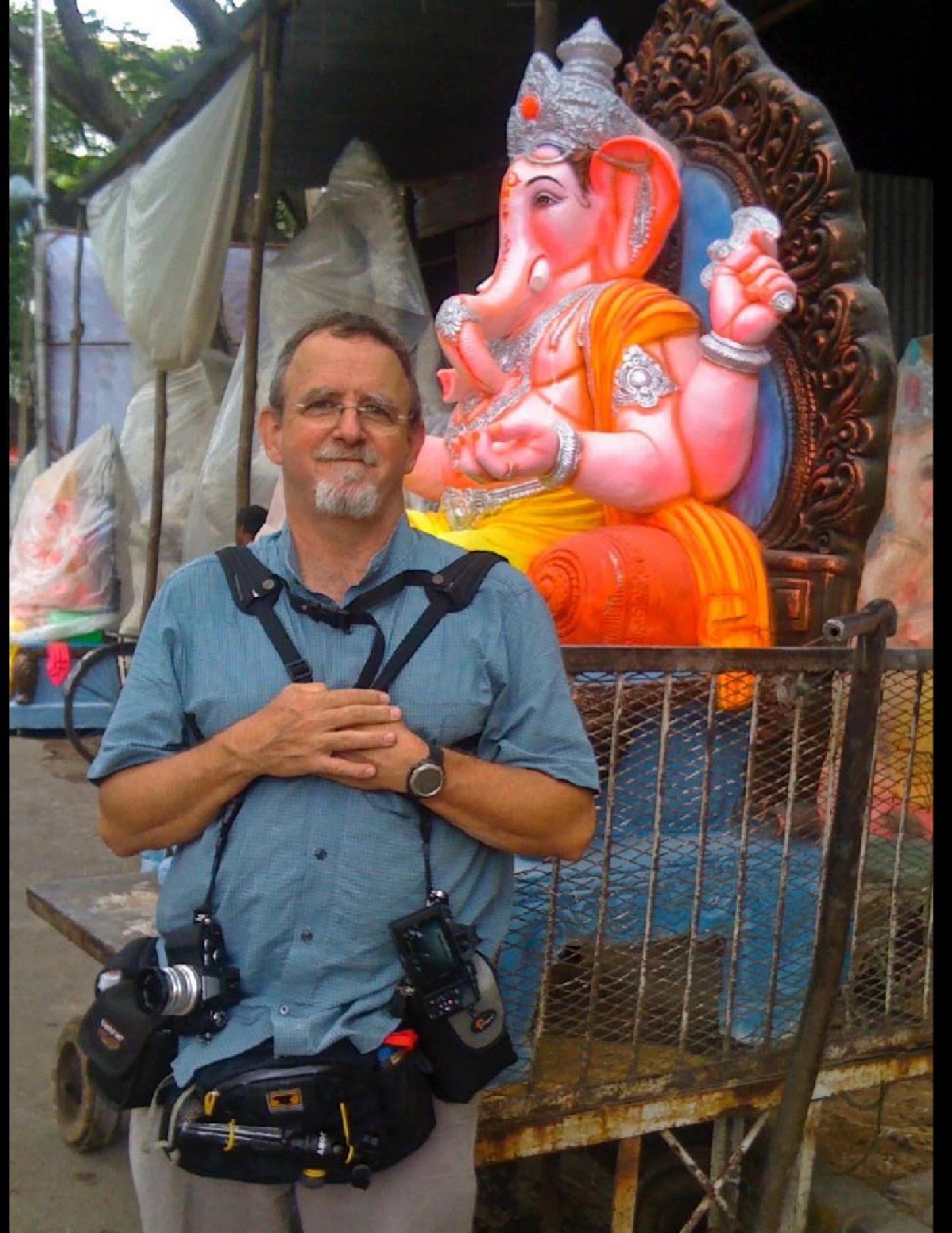
Backgrounds make
or
break your images

Keep it “clean”
and watch your
corners

The key to repeating,
predictable situations
is finding Choke Points,
where people have to go and
actions have to repeat

Giving something
back to the people
you photograph

My bag, gear
and outfit



OLYMPUS Micro Four Thirds System Camera



TIPS FOR MAKING BETTER TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHS (BY DAVID H. WELLS.)

1. **Arrive early, stay late!** The best parts often happen before or after the main event.
2. Ask yourself, **why am I taking pictures?** Do your photos record a mood, successfully share a good memory, or are they simply a marker of your presence?
3. **"Work" the situations.** When I am working, I may only photograph a few situations but I work those in many different ways till the image says what I want.
4. What is the **best position or angle?** I often try to get low down like a dog or to photograph from above, like a giraffe. Both give a very different experience.
5. Notice the **quality and direction of the light?** Where is the light coming from, what can I do to use that light by changing my position, lens, etc.?
6. Strive to remember the **importance of detail** shots to add to the story.
7. **Vary lenses.** Consider all the tools available to you, such as different lenses.
8. The **drama of silhouettes** makes for a powerful photograph. Use them to create highly graphic images that give the viewer a more dramatic perspective and simplify the image down to a few elements.
9. Capture a **sense of time** by using high shutter speed to stop the action, a slow shutter speed to pan with a moving object or fix the camera and let the activity blur by you.
10. Keep an eye on the backgrounds, which make or break your images. Keep it "clean" and **watch your corners!**
11. Put it all together to get **"the moment."** The best photos exhibit two or more of the points above to make a complete image that tells the story without distractions.

RELATED PODCASTS

Using shutter different speeds to show motion or stop action:

<http://davidhwells.com/2010/01/28/using-shutter-different-speeds-to-show-motion-or-stop-action/>

Seeing the light and capturing the shadows:

<http://davidhwells.com/2009/10/21/seeing-the-light-and-capturing-the-shadows/>

"Working" a situation when photographing:

<http://davidhwells.com/2009/06/03/working-a-situation-when-photographing/>

A lesson in seeing and working a situation:

<http://davidhwells.com/2009/10/07/a-lesson-in-seeing-and-working-a-situation/>

Planning your photography when working at twilight:

<http://davidhwells.com/2009/04/08/planning-your-photography-when-working-at-twilight/>

The use of time, shutter speed and panning in photographing action:

<http://davidhwells.com/2009/01/14/the-use-of-time-shutter-speed-and-panning-in-photographing-action/>

Importance of timing when photographing at twilight:

<http://davidhwells.com/2008/10/22/the-importance-of-timing-when-photographing-at-twilight-podcast/>

The Wells Point: <http://www.davidhwells.com/the-wells-point-podcast/>

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MOROCCO
NOVEMBER 6-17,
2021

www.OpenSkyExpeditions.com/PhotoTours/Morocco.html November 3/5-19 with optional extensions

The flyer features a photograph of camels and people in a desert landscape at dusk. The text is overlaid on a light grey background.



SOUTH INDIA
JANUARY 4-18,
2022

Trough January 20th with optional extensions in North India www.OpenSkyExpeditions.com/PhotoTours/India.html

The flyer features a photograph of a child lying on a yellow fabric. The text is overlaid on a light grey background.



SICILY
APRIL 10-21,
2022

www.OpenSkyExpeditions.com/PhotoTours/Sicily.html over HOLY WEEK, during the beautiful spring bloom

The flyer features a photograph of a coastal town in Sicily with a large rock formation in the background. The text is overlaid on a light grey background.

→ Download this flyer as a PDF at <http://davidhwells.com/2021tips.pdf>

davidhwells.com/DHW_2021_Tips.pdf

thewellspoint.com

RECENT BLOG POSTS

Making of a documentary short

My short documentary video, Farm Time, premiered in June of 2017 at the New Haven Documentary Film Festival. Being juried into a film festival tells me that a given video is in fact good, since succeeds in the eyes of others who get paid to look at lots of films. I am often asked what is the process that I undertake as I make the kind of short documentary videos that I like to make (and that I appear to be good at if you believe the numerous film festivals which have selected my work for screening.) With the idea of explaining the process, I offer this blog entry.

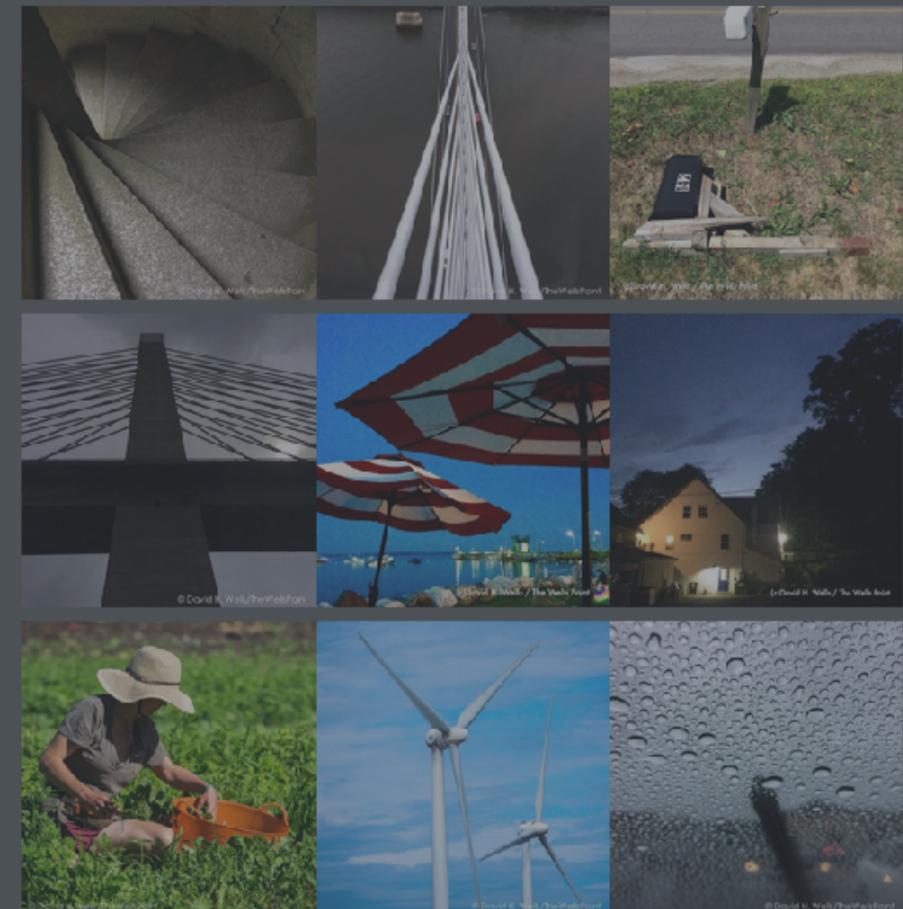
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📅 July 11, 2017

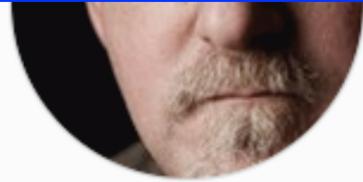
[who is david h. wells?](#)

[resources](#)

Instagram @TheWellsPoint

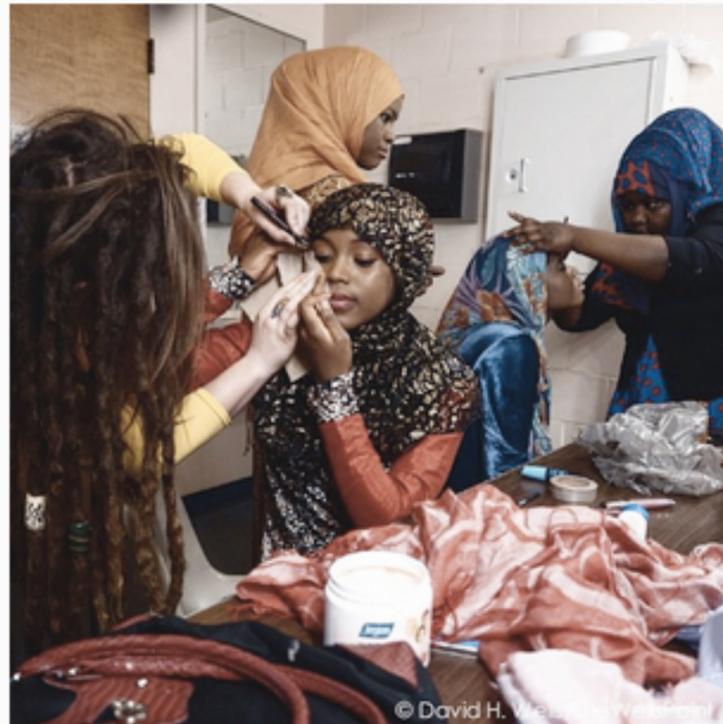


instagram.com/thewellspoint/



Blog at <http://thewellspoint.com/> Tumblr at <http://thewellspoint.tumblr.com/>
www.davidhwells.com/

141 posts 434 followers 85 following





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David H. Wells

@thewellspoint

David Wells, is a photographer davidhwells.com, Olympus Visionary, educator tinyurl.com/PDN-Workshops and blogger thewellspoint.com

Providence, Rhode Island

thewellspoint.com

Joined July 2009

12 Photos and videos

TWEETS
1,185

PHOTOS/VIDEOS
12

FOLLOWING
272

FOLLOWERS
691

FAVORITES
2

More ▾

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Tweets Tweets and replies

David H. Wells @thewellspoint · Jun 30
Photo: A finished Ganesha statue waits to be sold for the Ganesha Chaturthi festivities in Bangalore,... tumblr.co/ZGkJRw1KB6wy-
View photo

David H. Wells @thewellspoint · Jun 30
TODAY I am LIVE with my free course, Creating Powerful Photo Essays & Personal

Don't miss any updates from **David H. Wells**

[Sign up for Twitter](#)

David Wells

Joined 4 years ago 📍 Providence, R.I.

vimeo.com/thewellspoint



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✉ Message

I am an award winning* free-lance photographer/ video-maker affiliated with Aurora Photos and I am based in Providence, Rhode Island. One editor described me as a "...specialist in intercultural communication and visual narratives that excel in their creative mastery of light, shadow and sound, stills and video."

At my core, I am a storyteller, using whatever visual communication technology I can to tell stories. In my current work, I photograph as well as make "visual short stories" of the people, places and things

Narrative Visuals: The 2013 Demo Reel

Narrative
Visuals



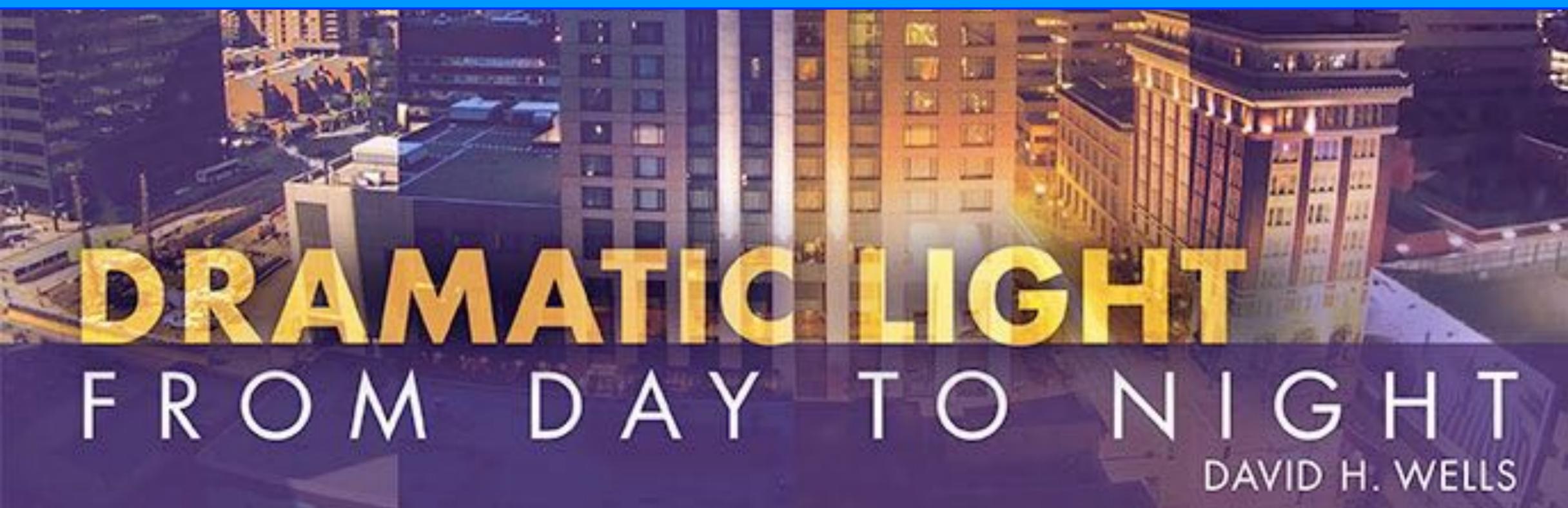
01:31

HD





www.craftsy.com/ext/David-HWells_5338_F



**My new on-line Craftsby photography class is online!!
Learn to master Dramatic Light From Day to Night in the class:
https://www.craftsy.com/ext/David-HWells_5338_F**

user reviews

Create Powerful Photo Essays & Personal Projects with David H. Wells

cr8.lv/dhwells

from grant writing, finding foundations, proposal development, even how to shake hands overseas. I am not sure where else I would have found this information for photographers. So appreciate it. One friend asked if this would be worth watching for anyone outside the US and the answer is a definitive yes. Very happy I purchased, and already starting to implement.

Kerryr

July 22, 2014 - 10:20 am

I haven't yet completed the course, but wow! This is one of the most applicable photography workshops I have seen or attended. David gets into specific detail on how to not only construct an essay, but how to use it to set yourself apart from everyone else, and how to use it to get third party validation. The course approach applies to all types of photography and all types of clients. I

David for sharing all your skills and knowledge. I have learnt so much and now know how to go about doing some of my own projects.

Nikki Davis1

July 03, 2014 - 08:04 pm

Thank you Creative Live and Mr. David H. Wells for presenting this workshop! This has been such a great experience and I have learned so much. Three intense days jam packed with so much information! I finally have learned the art of critiquing photos and what will make my proposals stand out. I can also apply some of the things here to other creative pursuits.

ablanco

July 03, 2014 - 10:00 am

Extremely helpful and informative course--one of the best I've taken at CL!

for what, I'm not sure. David's seminar seemed to embrace photography as the art form it is, and shared with us the tools that we as artists need to really understand and utilize in order to get our story out there. A story it seems he really wants to see/hear. Just an amazing "Thank You"!!!!

a CreativeLive user

July 02, 2014 - 04:04 pm

Thank you Creativelive for bringing David Wells live over these past three days. Thank you too, for the privilege of purchasing the seminar downloads so I can further study at will. I have many new skills to practice for 10,000 hours each. To have David as a virtual mentor is a gift. Natalie Robbins

Elaine Corbitt

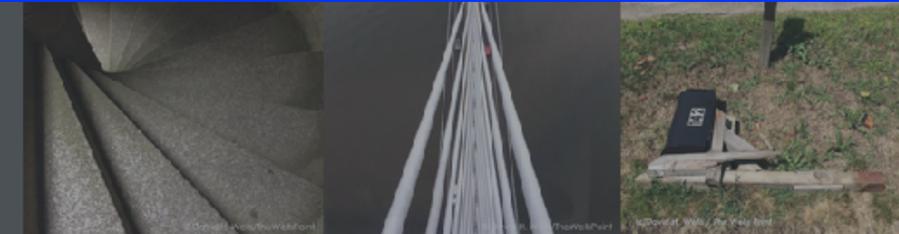
July 02, 2014 - 03:59 pm

davidhwells.com/classes/

JUL 30 – AUG 5, 2017

The Humanistic Photo Essay

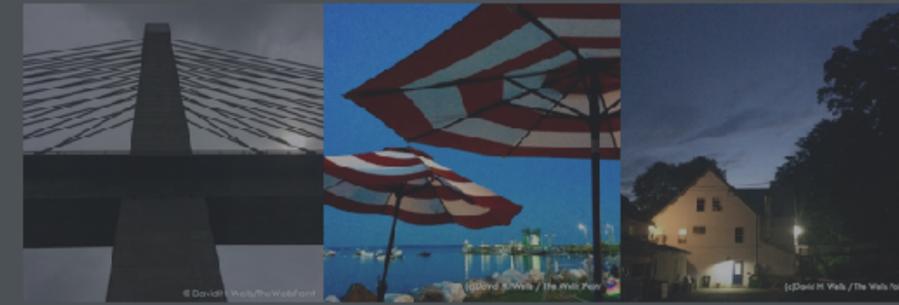
@ Maine Media Workshops



AUG 6 – AUG 12, 2017

Narrative Videos for the Storytelling Photographers

@ Maine Media Workshops



SEP 6 – SEP 11, 2017

Photo-Essay Class @ the Wooden Boat Festival

@ Pacific Northwest Art School



OCT 5 – OCT 16, 2017

MOROCCO: A Visual Feast

@ Open Sky Expeditions

About The Wells Point

Who is David H. Wells?

Who is behind The Wells Point?

SEP – NOV 2017

From Personal Project

@ Providence Center

davidhwells.com



MOROCCO: A VISUAL FEAST

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP & JOURNEY
FROM THE IMPERIAL CITIES TO THE SAHARA

NOVEMBER 6-17, 2021



[OVERVIEW](#) | [HOTELS](#) | [LEADER BIOS](#) | [DETAILED ITINERARY](#) | [F.A.Q.](#) | [RATES & INCLUSIONS](#) | [REVIEWS](#) | [MOROCCO GALLERY](#)

Hone your photography skills alongside a professional photographer in one of the most visually striking settings on the planet, through thoughtfully-crafted workshops in Morocco's Imperial Cities and a magical expedition to the Sahara Desert via the Atlas Mountains.

MOROCCO: A VISUAL FEAST

<http://www.openskyexpeditions.com/PhotoTours/Morocco.html>

SICILY

A PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY ON THE ISLAND OF LIGHT



Ideally timed in during the spring bloom, when this vibrant island's colors are most vivid, and over a fascinating week of traditions and processions leading up to Easter, join photo pro David H. Wells and Open Sky owner Alex Ros on an exciting and meticulously-crafted tour of beautiful, rugged, characterful, incredible Sicily. Designed to be in the right place with the right light, and with a relaxed pace suited to the island and welcome unexpected opportunities, we will not only find the best photography opportunities at a glorious time of year, but also savor the most exquisite cuisine, culture, and history that remarkable Sicily has to offer.

SICILY: A PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY ON THE ISLAND OF LIGHT

<http://www.openskyexpeditions.com/PhotoTours/Sicily.html>

SOUTH INDIA: UNDISCOVERED



A PHOTO JOURNEY

JANUARY 4-18, 2022

Join an exquisite photographic journey to some of the most compelling and undiscovered places in the subcontinent together with award-winning photographer David H. Wells, a true South India expert, with over 60 trips in two decades of travel to this enchanting land, including this very photo tour in early 2019. He along with Temu Nana are looking forward to leading an even further perfected journey in early 2022!

SOUTH INDIA: UNDISCOVERED

<http://www.openskyexpeditions.com/PhotoTours/India.html>

TIPS FOR MAKING BETTER TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHS (BY DAVID H. WELLS.)

1. **Arrive early, stay late!** The best parts often happen before or after the main event.
2. Ask yourself, **why am I taking pictures?** Do your photos record a mood, successfully share a good memory, or are they simply a marker of your presence?
3. **"Work" the situations.** When I am working, I may only photograph a few situations but I work those in many different ways till the image says what I want.
4. What is the **best position or angle?** I often try to get low down like a dog or to photograph from above, like a giraffe. Both give a very different experience.
5. Notice the **quality and direction of the light?** Where is the light coming from, what can I do to use that light by changing my position, lens, etc.?
6. Strive to remember the **importance of detail** shots to add to the story.
7. **Vary lenses.** Consider all the tools available to you, such as different lenses.
8. The **drama of silhouettes** makes for a powerful photograph. Use them to create highly graphic images that give the viewer a more dramatic perspective and simplify the image down to a few elements.
9. Capture a **sense of time** by using high shutter speed to stop the action, a slow shutter speed to pan with a moving object or fix the camera and let the activity blur by you.
10. Keep an eye on the backgrounds, which make or break your images. Keep it "clean" and **watch your corners!**
11. Put it all together to get **"the moment."** The best photos exhibit two or more of the points above to make a complete image that tells the story without distractions.

RELATED PODCASTS

Using shutter different speeds to show motion or stop action:

<http://davidhwells.com/2010/01/28/using-shutter-different-speeds-to-show-motion-or-stop-action/>

Seeing the light and capturing the shadows:

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"Working" a situation when photographing:

<http://davidhwells.com/2009/06/03/working-a-situation-when-photographing/>

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<http://davidhwells.com/2009/10/07/a-lesson-in-seeing-and-working-a-situation/>

Planning your photography when working at twilight:

<http://davidhwells.com/2009/04/08/planning-your-photography-when-working-at-twilight/>

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MOROCCO
NOVEMBER 6-17,
2021

www.OpenSkyExpeditions.com/PhotoTours/Morocco.html November 3/5-19 with optional extensions

The flyer features a photograph of camels and people in a desert landscape at dusk. The text is overlaid on a light grey background.



SOUTH INDIA
JANUARY 4-18,
2022

Trough January 20th with optional extensions in North India www.OpenSkyExpeditions.com/PhotoTours/India.html

The flyer features a photograph of a child lying on a yellow fabric. The text is overlaid on a light grey background.



SICILY
APRIL 10-21,
2022

www.OpenSkyExpeditions.com/PhotoTours/Sicily.html over HOLY WEEK, during the beautiful spring bloom

The flyer features a photograph of a coastal town in Sicily with a large rock formation in the background. The text is overlaid on a light grey background.

→ Download this flyer as a PDF at <http://davidhwells.com/2021tips.pdf>

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