

Photography Tips for Student Artwork

These tips are written to help when photographing student artwork with a smartphone, however many of the items below would also be helpful when using a regular DSLR camera.

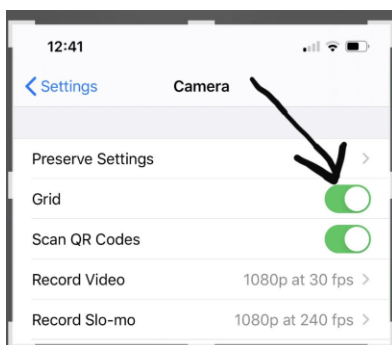
Listed in no particular order:

1. Lighting - Use natural light if possible. An area with natural diffused light will work the best. If you photograph in an area with bright, harsh sunlight or harsh fluorescent light, your photos will tend to have unwanted shadows on them. Be sure to turn your flash off when you have ample natural light or your photo will be overexposed.
If your photo is still too dark, you can adjust the exposure on your smartphone by doing the following:



*Tap the camera screen and a yellow box will appear
Next to the box is a sun icon.
Slide your finger up and down to adjust the exposure.*

2. Position - Be sure to stand directly above the piece of artwork, or if the artwork is hanging on a wall, stand with the camera directly in front of the piece. This will keep your edges from being skewed. Be careful not to block your light source.
3. Angle - Pay attention to how straight you are holding the camera. If you are using a smartphone, it will most likely have a grid function in the camera settings. Once you turn it on, it displays a grid over the photo you are about to take. This will make lining up/squaring up your photo much easier.



Open your settings on your smartphone.

Open the camera application under settings.

Turn on the grid function.

4. Background - Clean up the background area. Position the piece of art on a large sheet of paper that is a solid color. Many people want to use white paper, but a contrasting color to the art will work better.

Special thanks to Maggie Dickson, Saltillo Elementary MWS Model School, for providing these photography tips.

