

Silhouette Photography

Tips to remember:

1. Strong subject - find something that has a shape that is recognizable and gathers attention in its 2 dimensional form.
2. Backlighting and background push the subject forward in the image. Look for good contrast between subject and background.
3. Framing & composition – Try to have your subject standing out from the background, watch for merging points between your subject and the background.
4. Focusing - you will want the outline of your subject to be sharp. This may require some thought on your part as to how best to accomplish this with your camera. Don't hesitate to ask other members for help in figuring this out.
5. Exposure/Metering - This is where it may get problematic if you are shooting in Auto mode. You will be wanting to meter to the brightest part of your image but in Auto mode the shutter button half push to set metering also sets your focus point, which would leave your subject in the foreground out of focus. In manual mode, you can manually focus on your subject, move your point to meter on the background with shutter button half push, then recompose and take your shot.

Excerpt from Digital Camera School

“While a total silhouette with a nice crisp and black subject can be a powerful shot, also consider the partial silhouette where some detail of your subject is left. Sometimes a touch of light on them makes them slightly more three dimensional and ‘real’. This is the beauty of bracketing your shots as it will leave you with total and partial silhouettes to choose from.”

Some links to help

<http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-photograph-silhouettes/>

<http://photography.tutsplus.com/tutorials/simple-steps-for-shooting-amazing-silhouettes--photo-2447>

<http://www.onextrapixel.com/2011/06/23/47-stunning-and-creative-examples-of-silhouette-photography/>

- On this last link there are a number of links to other silhouette photography tips and tricks sites.