

The One Rule That Rules Them All:

1. If you see something that could make a cool photo, take the shot with whatever you have, even if it doesn't fit an assignment. Which means: always have something with you that you can take photos with.

The Three Rules Of Photo:

1. Photos turned in for assignments must be taken during the course of the semester. Trying to turn in prior work will count as cheating. (Editing, printing and submitting prior work for photo contests is acceptable).
2. Photos may only be turned in for one assignment (you cannot turn in the same photo/s to count for multiple assignments).
3. Avoid duplicating the work of others. Photos identical or nearly identical to someone else's will not count for a grade, but might count as cheating. If you go out shooting with a friend, shoot different subjects and/or use different angles etc. to achieve your own personal creative solutions. If you are shooting objects or portraits in the studio, set up your own still-lives, models and lighting.

Four Things To Always Do:

1. Have a subject and get it in sharp focus.
2. Get a good exposure with no undesirable blown highlights or blocky shadows.
3. Shoot fast enough or use a tripod/brace so there is no camera shake.
4. Keep the rules of composition in mind, and try multiple things for each subject.

Three Photo Fails

1. Pictures taken on campus (exceptions: events and assigned work).
2. Pictures taken at the last minute, especially in or around your home in poor light. Ergo: pictures lacking an interesting subject, lighting, emotion, action, story, and/or composition.
3. Pictures taken using on-camera flash.

Five Million Clichés

1. Your feet
2. Driving around shooting random poor blurry shots through car windows
3. Traffic signs
4. Fire hydrants
5. Mailboxes
6. Running water in your sink, from your hose, or (automatic F) in your toilet
7. Your fence, house siding, and the plants in your yard
8. Most pretty sunsets
9. Music keyboards
10. Public art (statues, graffiti, etc.) unless you juxtapose something with it that creates something new
11. Distant ducks & duck butts
12. You & your friends mugging for the camera & making idiotic hand signs (you'll thank me later)
13. Extreme close-ups of faces/eyes
14. Empty playground equipment
15. Looking up trees (this is not an unusual angle, folks)
16. Pets pets pets – did I say pets? Pets. But they can be so cuuuute so take pics anyway but then take more other pics for the assignment
17. Heart-shaped anything
18. Train tracks (this cliché can kill!)
19. People throwing leaves in the air (?)
20. Spider webs and spiders
21. Instagram clichés of the day
22. Things only exciting to people who live far away: Logboom Park, St. Edwards; touristy stuff like the Space Needle, Seattle Center, Pike Place Market, the freaking Seattle Great freaking Ferris Wheel, etc.
23. Etc. etc. etc.

} Possibly exciting . . . if you're from a 6th-world country . . .