Discovering P·L·A·C·E

Why use a digital camera in my classroom?

Digital cameras are great! You don't have to buy film, or pay for processing unless you want hard-copy photos. You can immediately see pictures from your camera and easily upload your photos to your computer for a classroom blog or a photo-sharing site such as Flickr.

How to use your digital camera

Review your camera's manual. Here's an overview of common features:

- **Memory cards:** Cameras need memory cards, such as an xD or an SD card. Replace the included low-memory card with a 2GB or larger card. Some brands may not be compatible; take your camera to an electronics or office supply store and try it out there, or research brands by reading reviews on at www.amazon.com. Read more about camera memory types here: http://www.photographyreview.com/memoryguidecrx.aspx.
- **Automatic settings:** Look for a dial or slide switch at the top or back of the camera.
- **Eyepiece/display:** If your camera has one, you can use the eyepiece instead of the screen in bright sunlight. Cameras may have a switch to turn off the display, to save battery life.
- **Picture-taking/review functions:** The display is used both to see the picture you're taking and view photos you've taken. Look for a button on top or in the back to switch functions; look for arrow keys (to view the next/previous photo) on top or the back, possibly along the right and left of a circle of buttons. If you have zoom, try using it when viewing a photo you've taken; you may be surprised at the detail you can see!
- **Flash:** This may be built into the front of the camera, or pop up from the top. On some cameras you can set a flash to go off automatically, or to stay off or on.
- **Shutter button:** Push this to take the picture. Some cameras are quieter than others; if you're not sure whether you took a picture, use the review function to see.

Uploading photos

- To move photos from your camera to your computer, remove the memory card and plug it into a card reader slot. *The slot may be installed on your computer or printer; you can also use a separate card reader.* Transferring photos is similar to using your flash drive; you can click to open photos from a message that appears or by going to "Computer," clicking to open the camera icon, then dragging the folder to your desktop.
- Alternately, your camera may include a USB cable that can be plugged into the computer, similar to a flash drive (see also flash drive tutorial).
- Once photos are on your computer, you can rename them, remove "red eye," crop them (outline the area you want in the photo and "crop" out the rest), as well as lighten a photo or increase the contrast before uploading them to sites such as Flickr.

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