

Photographing your Artwork

The AP exam is scored almost exclusively based on photographs of your artwork. It is very important to have clear, high quality photos for your portfolio.

You will submit ONE photo of each piece of art. This includes your 15 Sustained Investigation pieces and your 5 Selected Works.

Requirements for Digital Images

All images must be submitted in:

JPEG format (file name extension .jpg)

RGB color mode

72 pixels-per-inch (ppi)

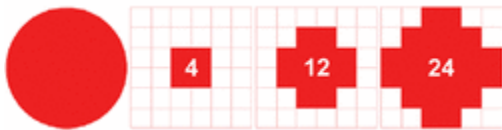
Maximum FILE SIZE:

Cannot exceed **3.0 MB** per image.

Image size (you will likely need to resize your images in a photo editing software):

- Landscape orientation:
 - Maximum size: 780 x 530 pixels (7.36 x 10.83 inches)
 - Minimum size: 480 x 480 pixels (6.67 x 6.67 inches)
- Portrait orientation:
 - Maximum size: 530 x 780 pixels (10.83 x 7.36 inches)
 - Minimum size: 480 x 480 pixels (6.67 x 6.67 inches)

Tips for Good Photos



A VERY brief look at digital photography...

- Digital photographs are actually mosaics of millions of tiny squares called picture elements—or just pixels.
- Pixels have no set size. A device can spread the available pixels over a small or large area on the screen or printout.
- As pixels are enlarged, an image is spread over a larger area, and its perceived sharpness falls (from the same viewing distance). When enlarged past a certain point, the individual pixels begin to show—the image becomes pixilated.
- Although larger sensors can give you sharper images and better enlargements, more pixels also means larger image files. Not only do larger files take up more storage space, they take longer to transfer, process, and edit and are often far too large to e-mail or post on a Web site.

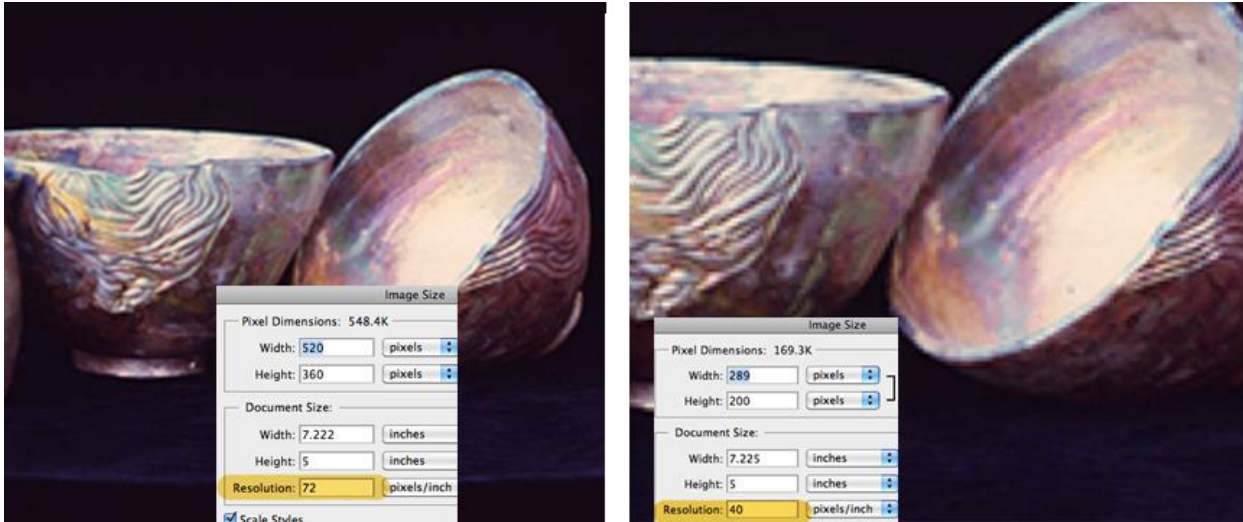
Camera

Use the best camera you have access to.

Select a camera settings that captures the highest-resolution, highest-quality images possible. Once a photo is captured, its resolution cannot be increased.

If the image will be viewed online, 72 pixels/inch is sufficient.

If the image will be printed, 300 pixels/inch is needed.
An image can be "sized down" easily but should not be sized up.



Background

Use Simple Backgrounds - gray, white, or black

The background of a two dimensional piece should be black or white. You need to decide which will flatter your work better. If the work is on paper you can temporarily tape it to the wall, without the tape showing, to photograph it.

Photograph the entire work, with as little as possible of the mat or background against which the work is being shot.

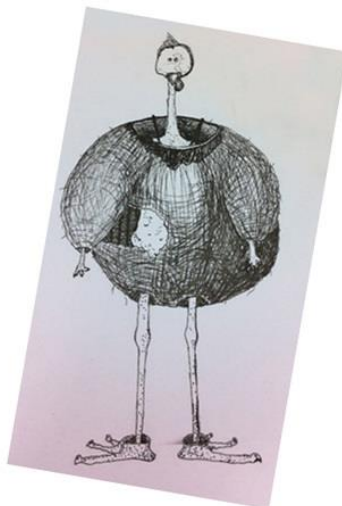
Warping and Proportions

"Square" the Art - edges of artwork should be parallel to the edges of the viewfinder

You do this by making sure that the lens of the camera is facing the artwork straight on or is on a parallel plan to the artwork. If the lens is positioned slightly below the image but tilted up the artwork will appear skewed. Skewing such as this is not easy to fix in digital editing programs.



A SKEWED PHOTO



... LEADS TO A WARPED IMAGE



THAT DOESN'T REFLECT THE ORIGINAL

Lighting

Avoid fluorescents, use natural light if available

If you photograph inside and use studio lighting, the lights need to be equidistant from the piece and coming out at a 45 degree angles from the wall at opposite sides of the art. This will give you the best even lighting. Some paintings will

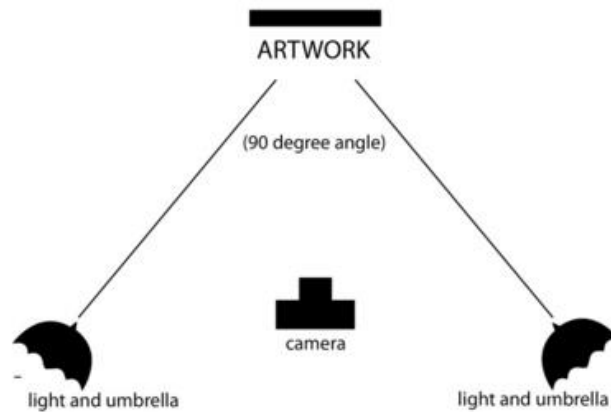
produce a glare at this angle. You may adjust the lights to see if you can get rid of it. As you do that try to keep the lighting even on the surface of the work.



POOR LIGHTING

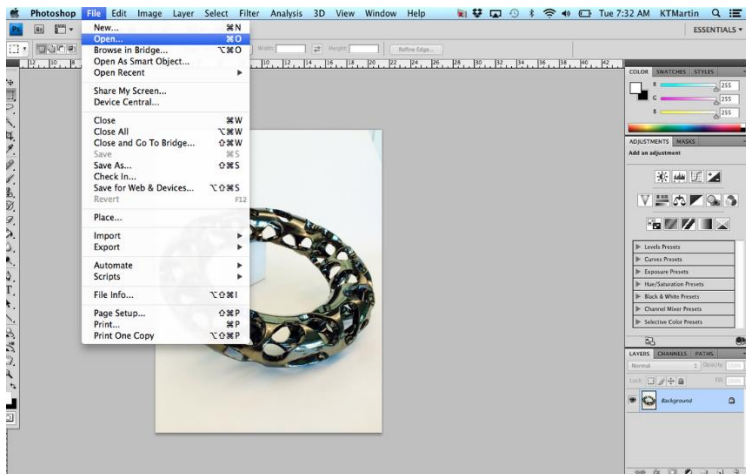


GOOD LIGHTING



RESIZING PHOTOS w/ Photoshop

Open File



Basic Photo Adjustments Levels, Brightness/Contrast

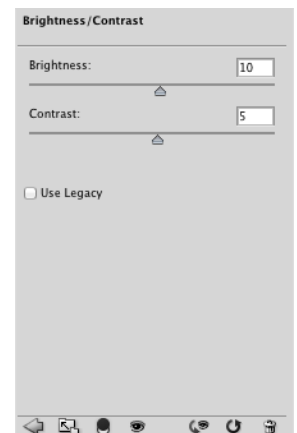
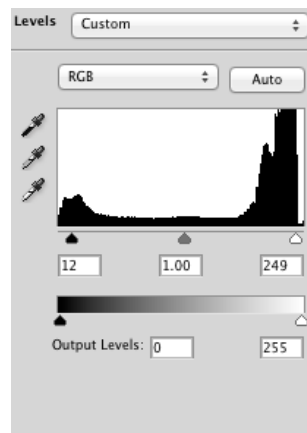
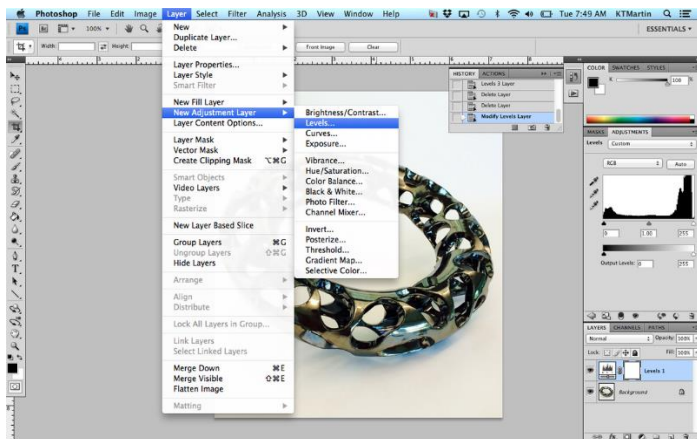
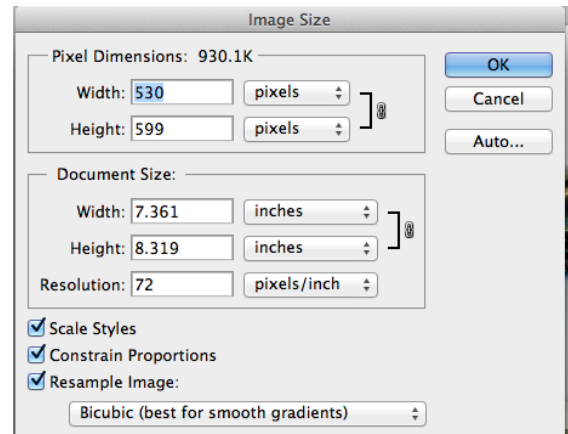
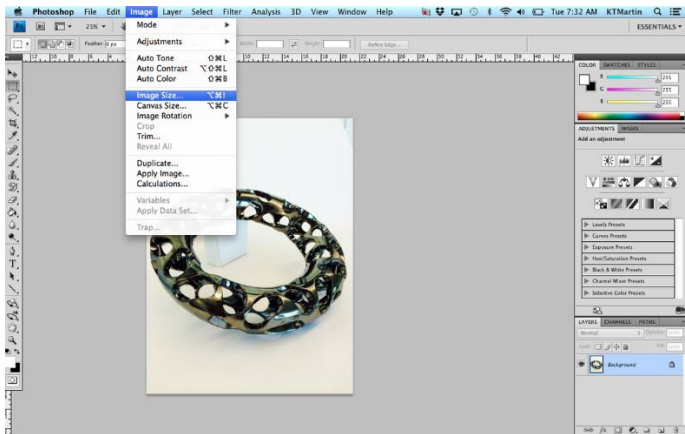


Image Size

Maximum size: 530 x 780 pixels (10.83 x 7.36 inches)

Minimum size: 480 x 480 pixels



Save-As

