**PhotoShop Tutorial:**

**Basic Editing to Improve Composition**

**Cropping**

* Many Photographs can be improved simply by cropping.

1. Click on the crop tool in the tool box (5th tool down, left side of the screen).
2. Click and drag out a selection, highlighting the portion of the picture that you would like to keep.
3. You can adjust this selection by clicking on any of the tabs on the bounding box and dragging them inward or outward.
4. When you selection is adjusted to the way that you would like it to look, hit enter on your screen to complete the crop.

**Straightening a Horizon Line**

* ALWAYS check to make sure that horizontal lines that are in your photograph that are meant to be straight are absolutely straight!

1. At the top of the screen, go to “Image” > “Canvas size.”
2. When the dialogue box appears, click on the “Relative” checking box.
3. Type in 5 inches for height and width.
4. Click OK.
5. Grab your Rectangular Marquee tool out of the tool box (2nd tool down).
6. Click and drag out a selection around the entire photograph, but not including the extra space around it.
7. Hit Control-J on your keyboard.
8. At the top of the screen, go to “View” > “Show” > “Grid.” To bring up a grid over the picture.
9. At the top of the screen, go to “Edit” > “Transform” > “Rotate.”
10. Placing your cursor outside of the bounding box, click and drag to the left or the right and align the horizon line or horizontal object with the grid so that it is straight.
11. Again go to the top of the screen and go to “View” > “Show” > “Grid” to get the grid to disappear.
12. Using your crop tool (see above), crop out any of the visible photograph from the layer below your straightened photograph.

**Blurring a Background**

* This can be used to achieve an effect similar to using a wide aperture to achieve a shallow depth-of-field with a DSLR camera when using a point-and-shoot or cell phone camera.

1. Using the magnetic lasso tool out of the tool box, create a selection around the part of the photograph that you would like to remain in focus (the main subject). Remember that the selection must be made around the entire object. When this is done, “marching ants” should appear around the main subject.
2. Hit Control-J to put the main subject on its’ own layer.
3. Click on the layer with the original picture on it in your layers palette on the right side of the screen to activate it.
4. At the top of the screen, go to “Filter” > “Blur” > “Gaussian Blur.”
5. When the dialogue box comes up, use the slider to adjust the amount of blur that you would like to apply to the background. Remember not to make it *too* blurry or it will look fake!