

Making Historical Educational Moments: A Review of the Adobe Photoshop Elements v.3 Workshop

by Douglas Mitchell, Instructor

Has there ever been a time before when such a group of men and women, boys and girls, teachers, staff, students (from elementary to college), parents, and grandparents (aged 8 to 80), gathered in the same room to learn about digital photography, Adobe Photoshop Elements and Apple computers? I don't think so.

To witness this gathering was the most precious moment of my long career as a digital media instructor. I will always remember seeing the excitement and curiosity in the eyes of everyone and the great feedback and questions following the session. We have entered a time where working with digital photos for school, business and personal use is just a way of life for everyone.

We learned that working to color correct and enhance digital photos is now actually really easy! After years of clunky dialogue boxes that require even the best minds to upgrade through training – Photoshop Elements now allows this entire process to be button and slider operated via the Quick Fix feature. This allowed the students to judge the immediate results on the screen from each adjustment they made. Sliders allowed them to tweak light and darkness, hue, color saturation, contrast, color temperature, tint and sharpness. No magic there!

They added special effects using the Styles and Effects palette. They just clicked the pull down menu and chose effects, filters and styles, then chose from hundreds of options to jazz up their photos.

By the time we finished, all had learned how to get more out of their cameras, and had a great time along the way. I guess you'd say it was just another typical workshop at the International Student Media Festival!

The Digital Teachers Resource Site

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