
Session 3

TIPS FOR TAKING PHOTOS

During the neighborhood assessments, it is important to take LOTS of photos! You will use the photos your group takes during the assessments to make photo collages, PowerPoint® presentations, and story boards that will be used to convince decision makers that the changes you want to see in your neighborhood are necessary.

Be sure to take photos of the following “problems” if you see them during the neighborhood assessments:

- Cracked/uneven sidewalks and sidewalks that end abruptly
- Road conditions such as painted lines (or lack thereof), potholes, pedestrian signals, curb ramps, crosswalks, posted speed limits, bike lanes, traffic, etc.
- Litter, graffiti, abandoned buildings/lots, broken facilities, overflowing trash cans
- Lighting, fencing, “eyes on the street,” and other security measures
- Recreational facilities, skate parks, walking and biking paths, and other areas for physical activity
- Indoor and outdoor facilities
- Unattractive community facilities, businesses, etc.

Also take photos of great things you see during the neighborhood assessment.

Tips for taking good photographs:

- Try different angles and points of view.
- Keep the sun to your back or to the side.
- Be sure your subject is in the center of the photo and fills the photo.

Tips for avoiding common mistakes:

- Keep your finger away from the lens and don't cover the flash.
- Stand about three to eight feet away from your subject.
- If using a disposable camera, wind the film forward before you take another picture, if your camera does not do so automatically.
- To prevent blurry pictures, hold your elbows close to your sides, or use a tripod to steady the camera.