**Definition Assignment**

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The objective of these definitions is to clarify and outline the basic principles of understanding aperture, arguably one of the most important camera settings that make up the ‘exposure triangle’. The ‘exposure triangle’ refers to the trio of elements that control the light in a photograph.

Understanding the concept of aperture will help give the reader the ability to create their own great photographs. As a result, the audience for these definitions are geared towards beginner and hobbyist photographers. However, these definitions can also be used as a starting point for those without a technical photographic background.

**Parenthical Definition:** Understanding aperture (the opening in the lens) will give you ultimate control in your photographs.

**Sentence Definition:** Aperture is a camera setting that helps controls the amount of light let into the camera.

**Expanded Definition:**

**What is Aperture?**

Aperture is a type of camera setting, the most important of the three ways to control the exposure and sensitivity to light of an image. This important element of photography along with shutter speed and ISO helps determine the exposure of a photo (affecting the amount of light that can reach the image sensor).

**Functioning of Aperture:**

Compared to the human eye, aperture functions similar to our own reactions to light. If it is sunny, the human eye will adjust accordingly to the bright sunlight. If it is dark, the eye opens wide to let all available light in you can see. These processes are directly mirrored with wide apertures for dark settings and narrow apertures for bright settings. Different types of aperture numbers, or f-stops can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Wide to narrow apertures (left to right)

As aperture deals with optics as well as controlling light, these principles can be transferred over to other fields such as astronomy in terms of the use of telescopes.

**Works cited**

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Owens-Knudsen et al., Photography Basics. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1983. Web.