

## **Makayla Rands**

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I have always enjoyed being in front of a camera! I have recently realized one reason I love the camera so much is because I enjoy capturing the uniqueness and the beauty of the individual or scene in front of the camera. I have ADHD. This often causes me to think and act differently than others. Making friends can be difficult because my mind constantly runs and I see things differently.

Seeing things differently has helped me open my eyes to a new art form. It drove me to discover all the wonderful, and unique things about each individual that I've met. Due to my own unique challenges, I have always desired to discover what makes another person different, and then search for the perfect way to capture it. I try to learn as much as I can about the person I will be taking pictures of so I can see all of their different sides. I'll search for their good side, their bad side, their goofy side, and even their serious side so I can understand them as an individual. When I see the complex sides of a person, my mind begins to envision different backgrounds and poses that fit their personality and showcase their uniqueness. I can then capture a moment of determination, love, frustration, or joy from within them. I am able to soak up these traits by asking questions both before and even during the photoshoot. Having a love for photography has made it easier for me to make new friends, communicate with my peers, and to learn new things about my good friends by focusing my energy and attention.

Perhaps my favorite photo I have taken, in my brief exposure to photography, I have entitled "The Ghost Photo." I was able to simulate a spirit leaving a body. Utilizing

timing and creativity, I had my friends lying down for a long shutter speed and then near the end of the shutter click, suddenly sitting up so only a transparent image remained. I was excited I didn't need any editing software to clean up my photo. I won second place for this photo just three months into my first photography class.

My passion for photography has brought so many people into my life. This hobby has driven me to expand my comfort zone, discover new levels within myself and develop a new talent. I now realize that there is much more to a person than just what is seen on the surface and that there are many viewpoints which can be altered with cropping or composition. For these reasons I conclude that photography drives me to do what makes me happy.

