

Person

Place

Thing

You have a Story to tell !

Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Making a better book or..... things I learned along the way *the hard way!*

- Have a great idea *although it might not be the same idea that you started with originally.*
- Make sure you have several ideas in case the first one just didn't work out the way you thought it would.
- Put all your images for your book in a folder you can easily access.
- If you have different subject matter that can be categorized, make chapters.
 - I usually use two pages -- a blank on the left and the chapter name on the right.
- Number all your pages. I use 12-14 pt type for numbers.
- Have titles for your images.
 - Titles should be in the same place under all your images.
 - Either left, center or right justified to the image.
- Never put text over one of your images in a photography book. Text over images is for advertising.

- Have a working title for your book it will help to keep you focused on content.
 - Most of the time my working title never makes it to the final edit.
- Read all the image requirements needed from the book printer you select.
 - Especially if you are going to print monochrome. I would make them all grayscale images.
 - Small .jpg images do not enlarge. Use large density .jpg's.
- Placing your image on the page.
 - I don't use suggested templates. I create and use my own design layouts. Make sure if you do this that everything is consistent.
 - White space is important. I place and enlarge my images to leave a comfortable amount of white space.
 - Full page or two-page bleed images. I use that only for images I want to make a special statement.
And I only use it sparingly. Once or twice in a book depending on how many pages are in the book.
- Print the largest book the printer has available. Everyone wants to be able to view and enjoy your awesome images so make them bigger and easier to see.

- If you've had success with a printing company stay with that company.
- Use the same paper that you've had success with in the past.
- Make sure you watch your printer for discounted printing. I use Blurb and Oct-Nov you can get between 40-50% savings which is significant if you are printing a book with a lot of pages.
- If you have different subject matter that can be categorized, make chapters.
 - I usually use two pages -- a blank on the left and the chapter name on the right.
- Number all your pages. I use 12-14pt type for numbers.
- Have titles for your images.
 - Titles should be in the same place under all your images.
 - Either left, center or right justified to the image.
- If you use an index, make sure your information relates to the same page and you have the right data for that image.

This is the most important information I can give you tonight!

- I am not a person of words. I'm a visual person, but I write in all my books.
- I write an introduction to the book. It's like an artist's statement about the work.
- If you're doing a travel book and writing descriptive paragraphs, make sure they are aligned to your image or on a separate page.
 - at least a 10pt type font size. Try not and go over 18pts with typing blocks of text.
 - Serif type faces read better for blocks of type. I typically use something like Century Schoolbook or Baskerville fonts.
- Use **Spellcheck!**.....but don't rely entirely on the printer's spellcheck interface. They don't have a complete dictionary from what I have found.
- Have someone besides you check your grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Now that you've completed your award-winning book, let it set for a couple of weeks and go back and check all the images, titles, index if you have one, and see if everything is good and where it is supposed to be located.

Thank you!