



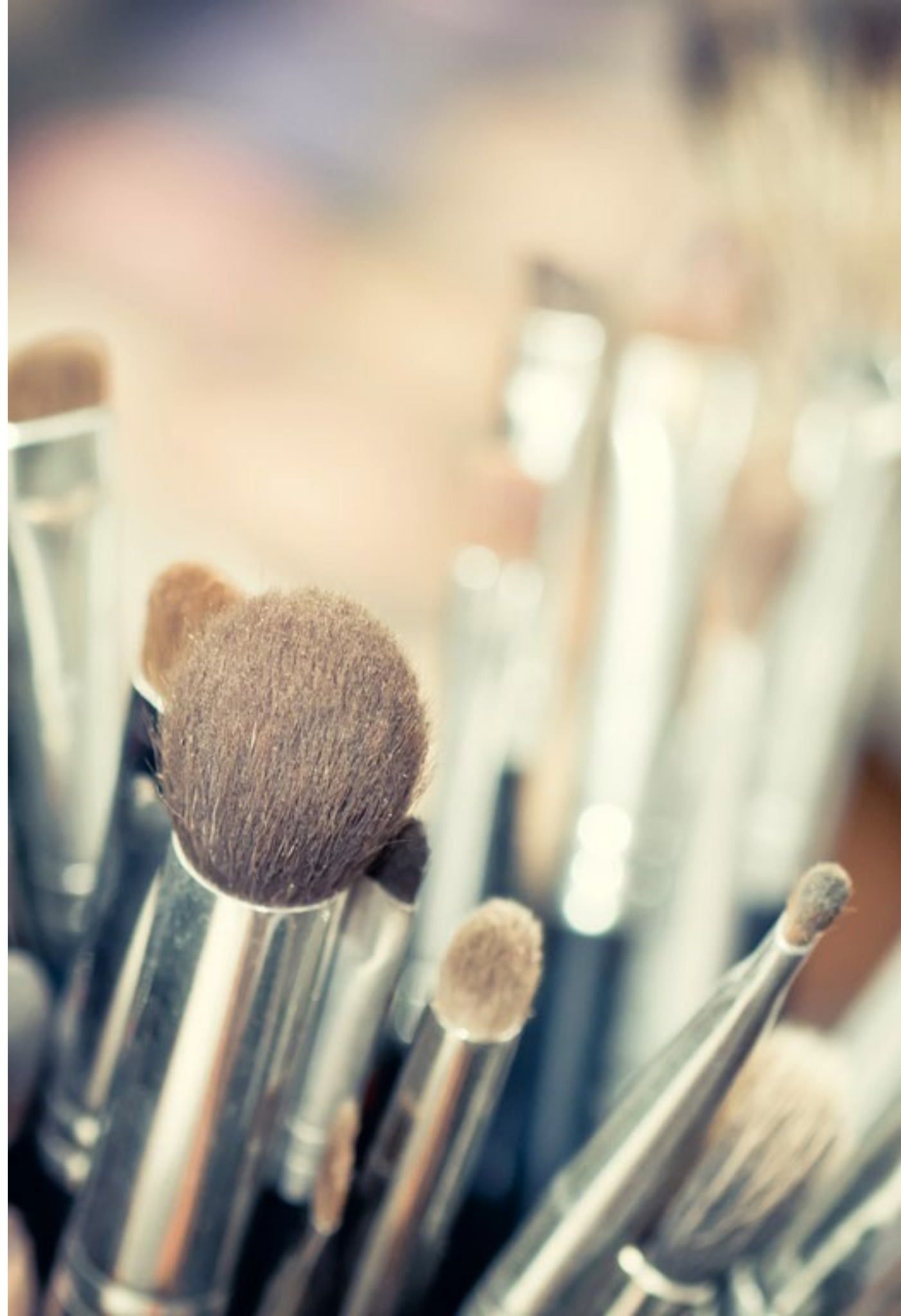
# Nathan's Guide to a Better Grade

Nathan Johnson's advice to make the most out of your online makeup course



# CONTENTS

- 2 About the Author
- 5 Tip #1: Watch the DVDs and Practice
- 6 Tip #2: Don't submit the first makeup you try
- 7 Tip #3: Read the written materials
- 8 Tip #4: Properly label all assignments
- 9 Tip #5: Read the assignments carefully
- 10 Tip #6: Find models
- 11 Tip #7: Take clear, well-lit pictures
- 16 Now Get To It!
- 17 About QC Makeup Academy
- 17 Contact Us
- 17 Join the QC Community



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nathan Johnson is a New York City based celebrity makeup artist with nearly 20 years of industry experience. Nathan has worked on over 300 famous faces including Paula Abdul, Lea Michele, Kyra Sedgwick, Kevin Bacon, Paul McCartney, and more.

As the executive makeup artist for QC Makeup Academy, Nathan is responsible for ensuring that all the instructional materials are in line with best industry practices. He's also featured in the instructional videos for all of QC's makeup courses.





## **MAKEUP IS A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE FIELD.**

For every job that is available, there are at least 2 to 3 artists (and often more) vying for the opportunity. To get the job, you need to be the best. And being the best starts with the habits you develop while you are learning.

The programs created by QC Makeup Academy contain all the techniques you will need to have a long and very successful career. The curriculum is approached from a classical perspective. By learning makeup from the ground up, you will be prepared to use your techniques to achieve any look that you will ever be called on to do.





Now watching the videos and trying the techniques once will not help you to master your craft, nor will it allow you to call yourself a professional. The title professional is earned from putting in hours (even years) of practice and study. If you want to begin the journey to being a true professional artist, it starts here and now.

In this book you'll find my tips to help you get the most out of this course and your career. Remember, the habits (good and bad) that you develop now will be the ones that you carry through your entire career, so let's make sure they are positive ones!

*Nathan Phuong*



# TIP #1:

## WATCH THE DVDS & PRACTICE

When the box of materials arrives at your door, it is very tempting to want to open it up, pop in the DVD, sit in front of the mirror and start doing makeup. That in itself is not a bad thing, but I urge you to watch the techniques in their entirety before you begin applying. Then comes your time to play.

Practice on yourself, your friends, anyone you can get your hands on. This is how you become a master. Don't think about the assignments yet. Practice the skills for the joy of it. Try them again and again and see how they differ on different face and eye shapes. This is where the learning that no school can teach really happens.





# TIP #2:

## DON'T SUBMIT THE FIRST MAKEUP YOU TRY

This is a course where everything you submit is carefully evaluated.

Would you hand in a first draft of an essay for a literature mid-term and expect a good grade? No, you would go over it with a fine-toothed comb to be sure it is amazing.

You are taking this course because you have a passion for makeup. Whether you want to perfect the skill for personal use or turn it into a career, you need to practice. Take your time, experiment, and have fun.

Practice the techniques on many different faces until they become second nature. When you feel you have completed a look to the best of your ability; that is the moment you submit it. When you have done all that you can do, and are proud of the work, your tutor will be ready to push you to a new level.







## TIP #3: READ THE WRITTEN MATERIALS

The theory aspects of makeup are just as important as the practical application. If you do not study your materials, you can never claim to be a professional.

Would you go to a doctor who had never opened a book because he/she found it more fun just to practice surgery? I certainly hope not.

Makeup is a career and one that can pay handsomely, but all aspects (practical and

theory) must be learned. A tremendous number of students take the quizzes without referring to the written materials. Many believe that it is all common sense, and unfortunately for them, they are wrong.

There are rules governing safety that are not open to interpretation. There are guidelines to working on sets, working with teens, and working with men that may require more than common sense.

As an artist, you need to know your tools. All of this is taught in the written materials. You are welcome to skip them, but it may drastically lower your grade.

Do yourself and your career a favor and study your materials. There's a goldmine of information in the pages and you will miss out on all of it!





Jennifer-Smith-makeup-2.png



A1MA9999.png

## TIP #4: PROPERLY LABEL ALL ASSIGNMENTS

In the very front of the opening materials, you'll find guidelines on how to properly label and upload your assignments and photos for grading. Take a moment and save your work in exactly this format.

If you upload assignments with your own labels or simply as image files from your camera card,

they do not download in a way that makes grading easy, and your assignments may be rejected before they are even evaluated.

Proper labeling also shows that you are capable of following instructions and that you take the course seriously.



## TIP #5: READ THE ASSIGNMENTS CAREFULLY

What is asked for in each section of the course is very specific.

For example, the blending section is to be completed on the back of the arm.

There is good reason for this: it gives you a large area of skin that allows you to perfect what will go

on to be one of the most important fundamentals of makeup. That being said, I can't tell you the enormous number of students who submit this section and do the makeup on another area of the body.

So take your time and make sure to follow all directions outlined in your course guide!



# TIP #6:

## FIND MODELS

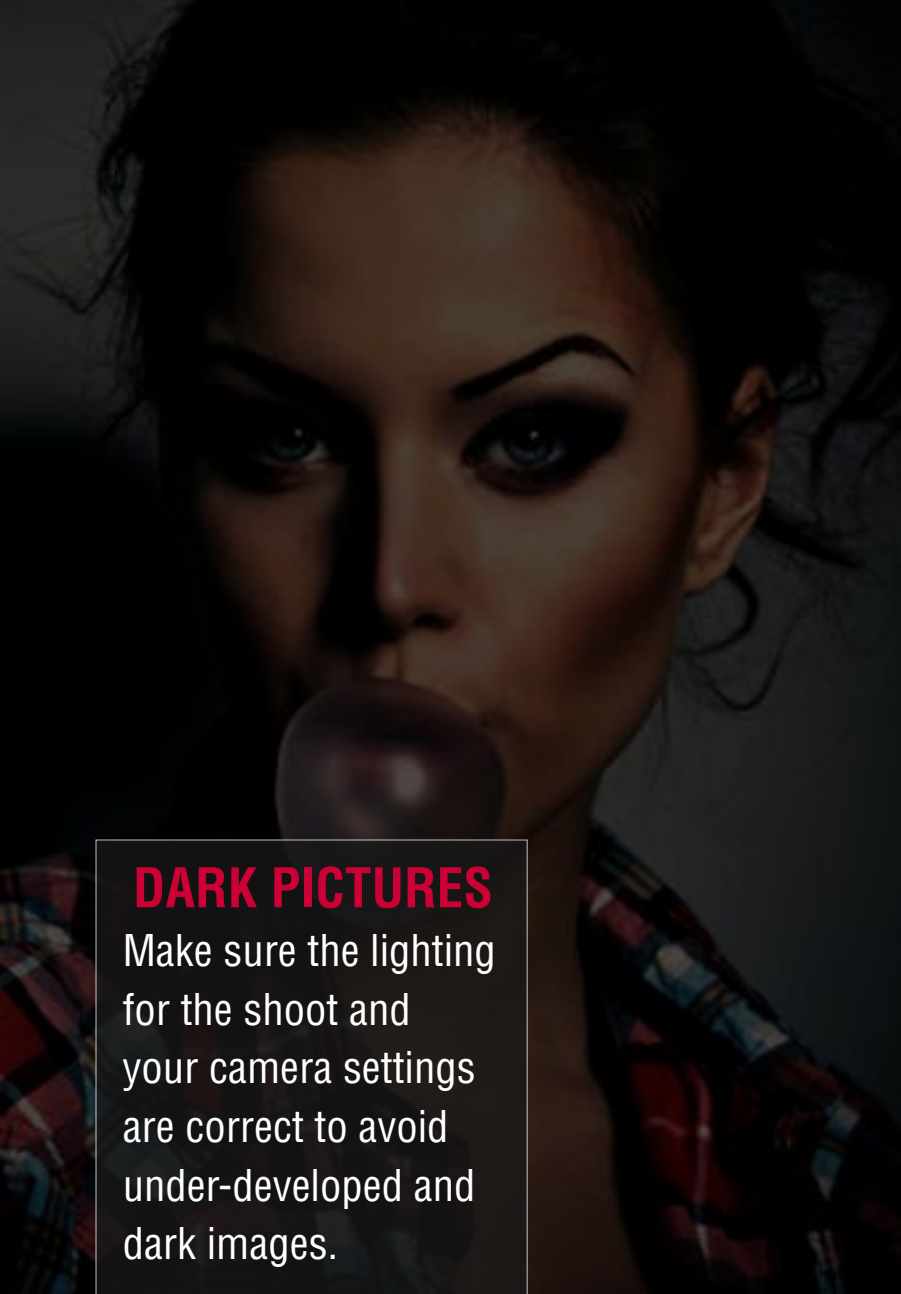
Yes you can work on yourself, but you will not learn nearly as much as you will if you work on different faces. You know your own face. So in a way it's like having a cheat sheet.

If you work on unfamiliar faces, you will learn about different eye shapes, skin colors, etc. And this is where the real skill comes in. You are never going to get hired to put make up on yourself, so it is best to get in the habit of working on other people.

If you feel like you are in a small town and don't know anyone, then I ask you this: how do you expect to have a career? The people you work on now, could very likely become your future clients. Don't be afraid. Make new friends. People love to have their makeup done, all you have to do is ask.

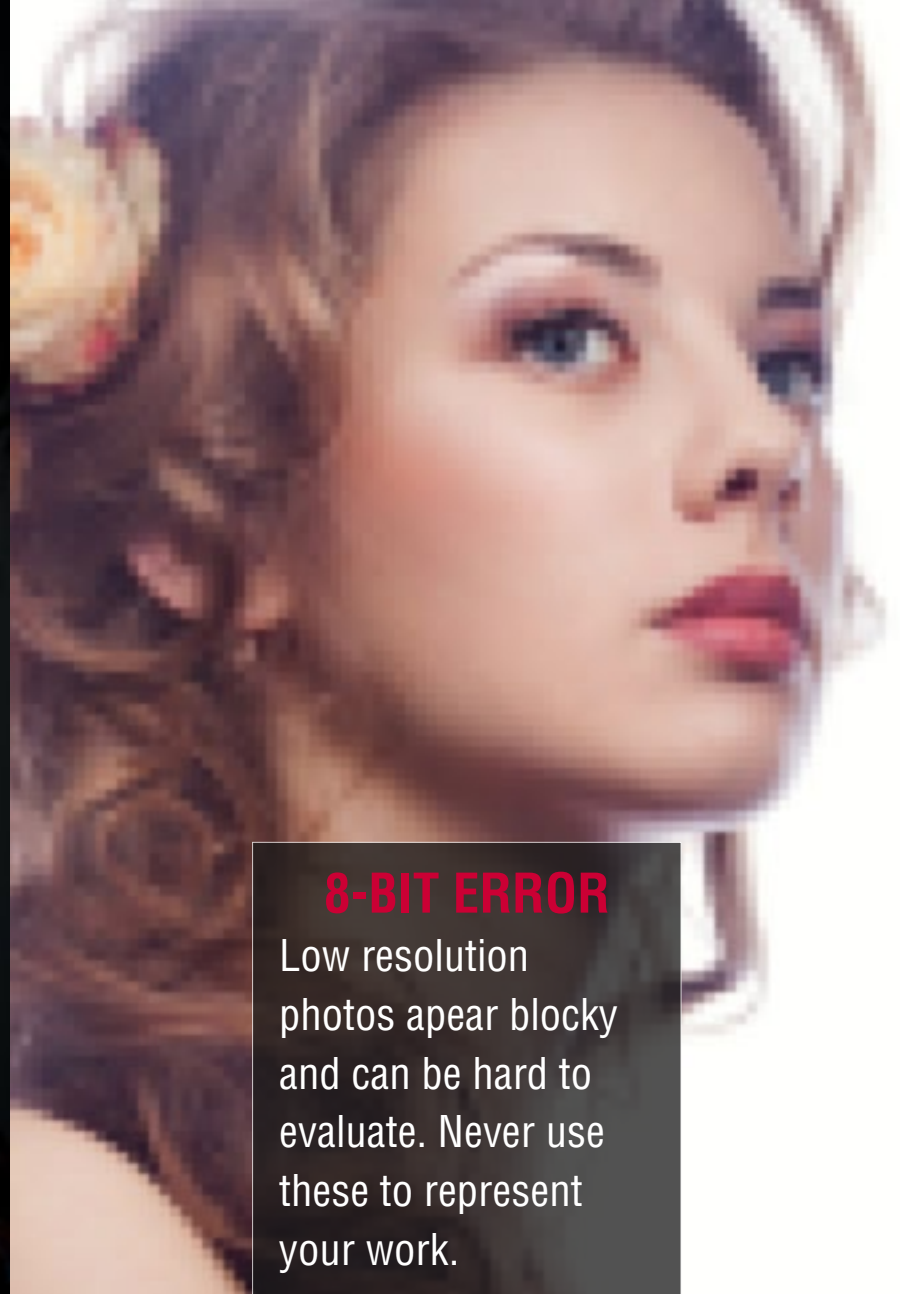






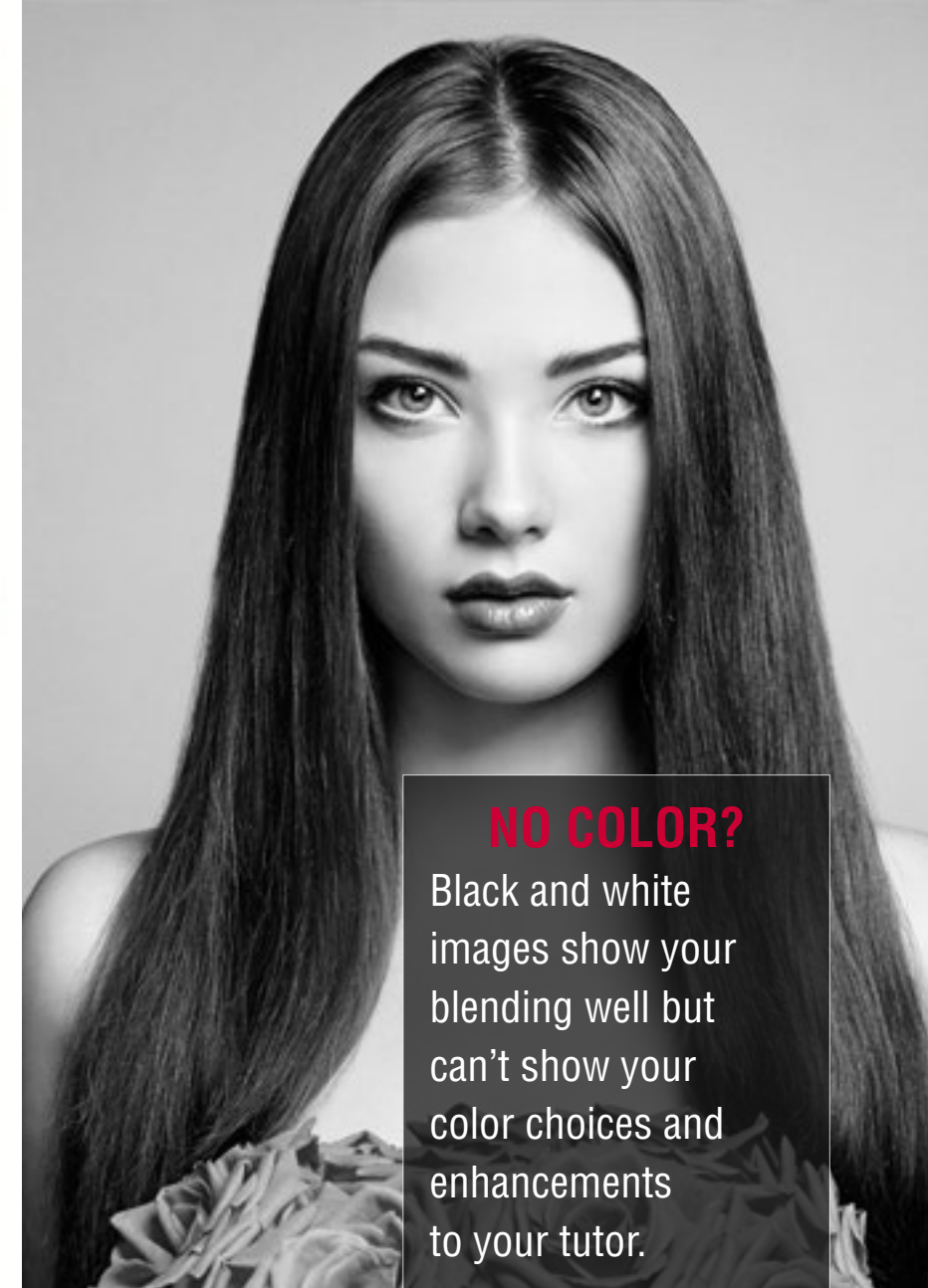
### **DARK PICTURES**

Make sure the lighting for the shoot and your camera settings are correct to avoid under-developed and dark images.



### **8-BIT ERROR**

Low resolution photos appear blocky and can be hard to evaluate. Never use these to represent your work.



### **NO COLOR?**

Black and white images show your blending well but can't show your color choices and enhancements to your tutor.

## **TIP #7: TAKE CLEAR, WELL-LIT PICTURES**

The image you submit is what will allow your tutor to assess your growth, to find your strengths and weaknesses and to create a game plan to push you to a new level. If you send poor quality, dark or pixelated images, you are only doing a disservice to yourself.





### EYES OPEN

Show off the look you've created with your model's eyes opened. This looks more natural and demonstrates the enhancements you've made.



### CLOSED EYES

Avoid closed eyes to show your work. If you have to point it out, it's not working.

## TIP #7: TAKE CLEAR, WELL-LIT PICTURES

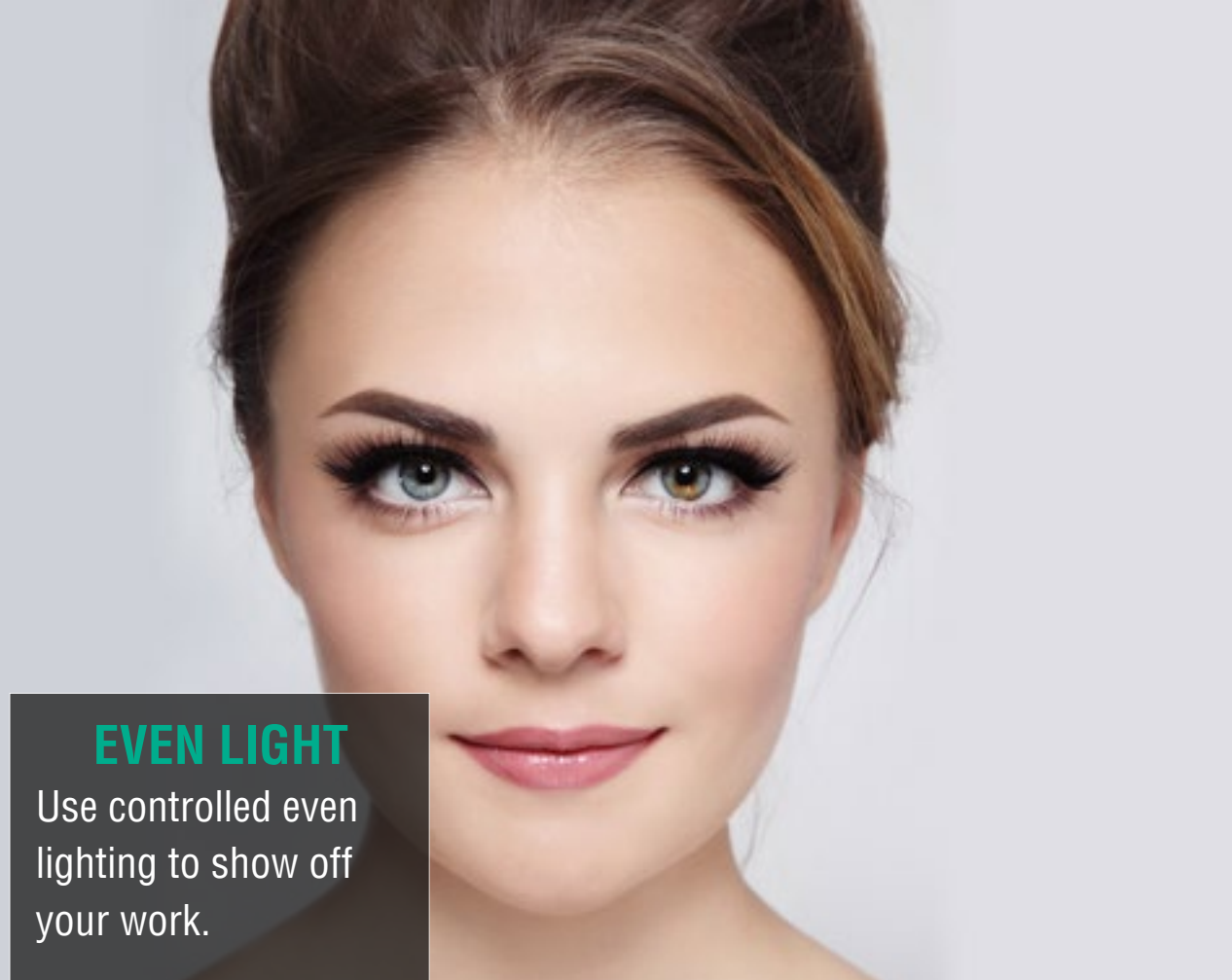
No closed eyes. It is very tempting for models to want to close their eyes for the “before” pictures. It is also very tempting for you to ask a model to close her eyes so you can show off your eye shadow application.

**Don't do either.**

Your tutor needs to see your client's features before application (lids with eye open, etc) to be sure that your choices are appropriate for the features of the client. No one ever walks around with their eyes closed to show off their makeup. Makeup is about enhancing the features of the client. If you need the client to close her eyes to

show what you have done, then you've failed. The client should look best when her eyes are open and this is what your tutor needs to see.

There are exceptions to this. In certain sections, you are asked to submit images of both closed and open eyes. This will be the only place to appropriately submit closed eye images.



### **EVEN LIGHT**

Use controlled even lighting to show off your work.



### **TOO BRIGHT!**

Bright lighting beside a window or a light fixture causes hard shadows and washes out information.

## **TIP #7: TAKE CLEAR, WELL-LIT PICTURES**

No back or side lit photos. A tremendous number of students stand their model with their back to a window or a light fixture and take the picture. This sort of lighting casts harsh shadows on the face, which distorts the makeup and makes the client look much darker than they are.

The best way to take photos is to take your client outside and snap the picture with your back to

the sun and their body facing it. This will give beautiful, even light distribution with no shadows. This is the ideal way to showcase your work.

If outside is not an option, have your client squarely face a window or light source and take the image that way. Poorly lit images are a terrible representation of work you put a lot of time and effort into.





### SELFIES

A self-taken photo is quick and easy but doesn't display your work professionally and can distort the image.

### BAD CURVES

Fisheye lenses and other forms of shape distortion skew the image.

## TIP #7: TAKE CLEAR, WELL-LIT PICTURES

Avoid self-taken, fisheye pictures. Holding a camera too close and taking a picture of yourself can result in a very distorted image. When the lens is close to the subject, the features can distort, making the nose appear huge while the rest of the face has far away, or pulled back in appearance. This fisheye-type photo is not beneficial to the proper assessment of your work.

Ask your models not to pose. Makeup makes people happy. It makes them feel beautiful. And, yes, it makes them want to pose for their glamour shot. You are welcome to take as many of those shots as you would like, but aside from the fashion photography assignment, don't submit them. Clean images with the client directly facing the camera are what will best allow your tutor to view your work. Photos from the side, or clever angles

make it nearly impossible for the symmetry of your makeup to be assessed.

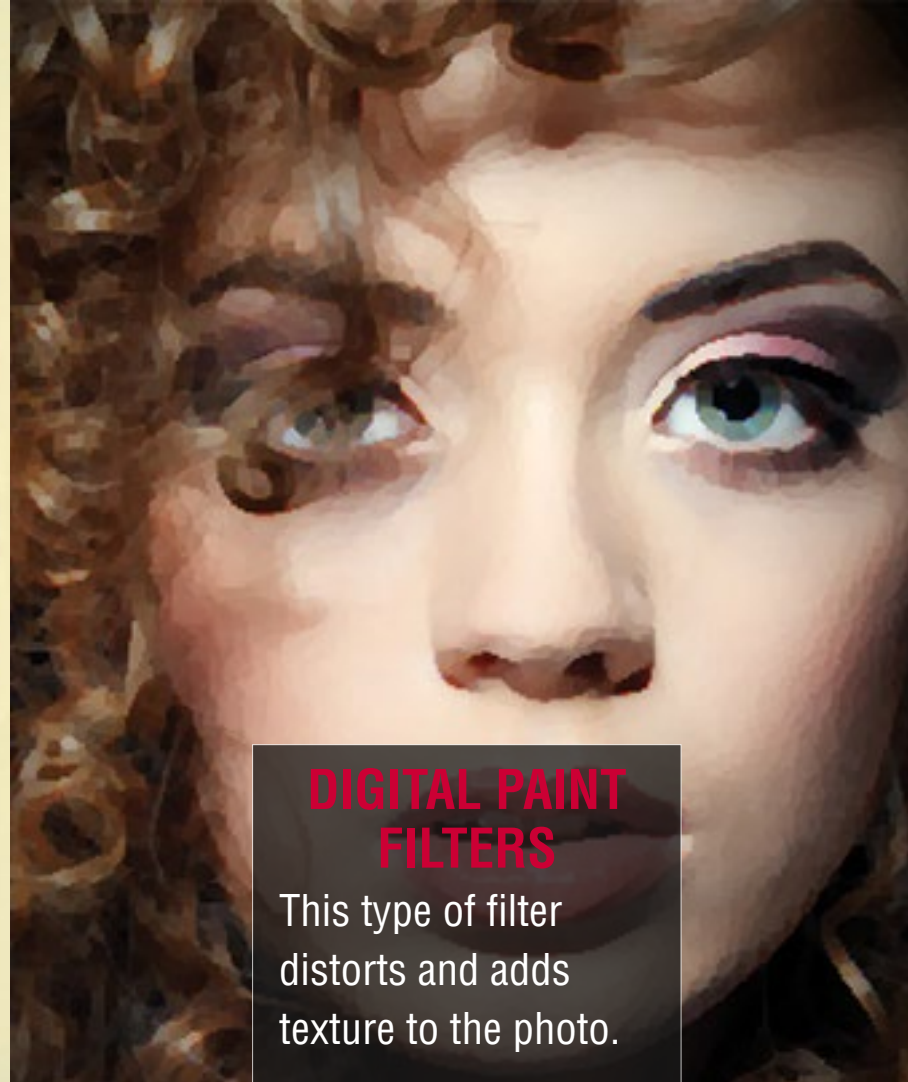
No thumbnail size photos. Please submit images that are of a reasonable size. Remember, your tutor needs to be able to see them clearly in order to be able to offer you feedback that will help you to grow and improve. We cannot guide you if we cannot see your work.





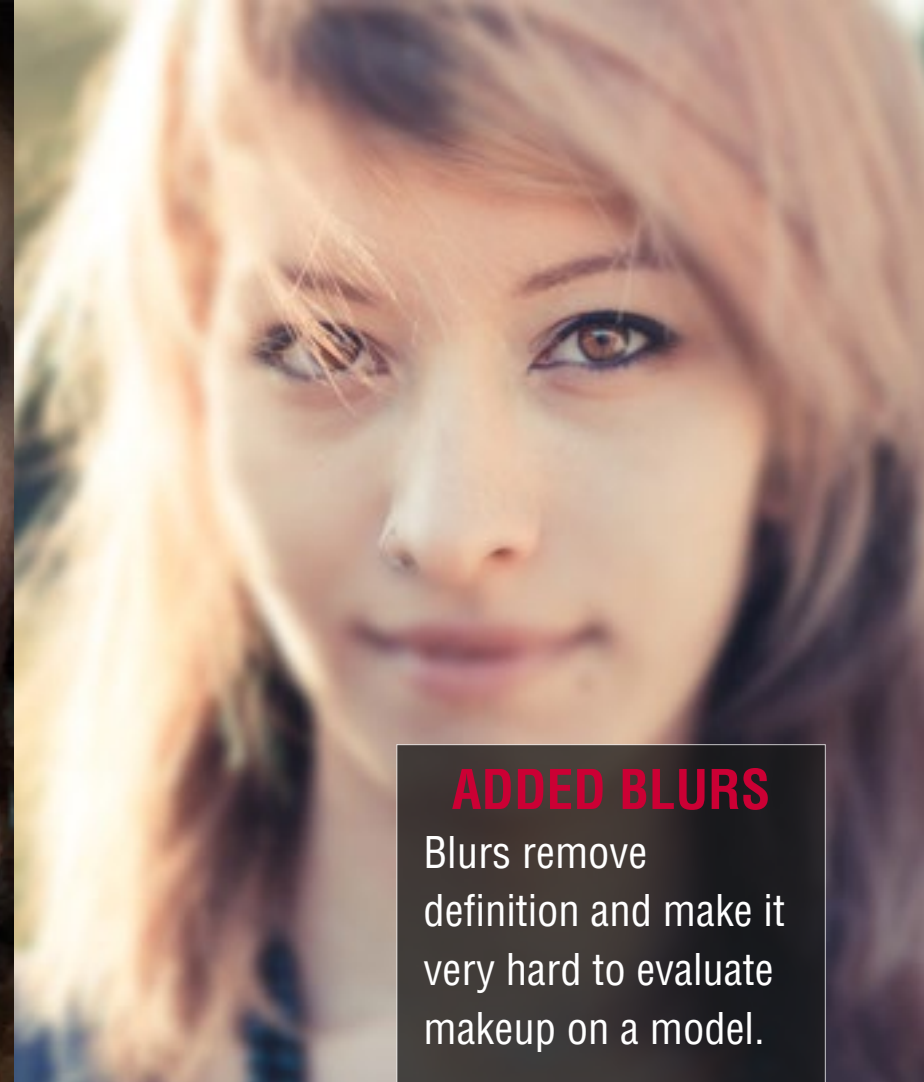
### **VINTAGE FILTERS**

These tend to wash out information and manipulate the colors in the photo.



### **DIGITAL PAINT FILTERS**

This type of filter distorts and adds texture to the photo.



### **ADDED BLURS**

Blurs remove definition and make it very hard to evaluate makeup on a model.

## **TIP #7: TAKE CLEAR, WELL-LIT PICTURES**

Don't use filters or edit your images. Your tutor wants to see your makeup, not your editing skills. Filters can distort, conceal, or give a dishonest representation of your hard work. So can photo editing software.

Vintage filter presets can cause multiple harsh effects on photos like upping the contrast up too far and washing the photo with a color, thus making it nearly impossible to see anything that you've done to your model. Faux paint filters are beautiful, but can add texture that will distort your model's

smooth skin and make other features blocky. Blurs are another filter that you should avoid. If used incorrectly a blur will remove definition and won't display your model correctly. Remember you're representing yourself as a makeup artist, not a digital artist.

A well shot photo with good lighting will always come off genuine and confident showing that you have nothing to hide.



# NOW GET TO IT!

Just taking a course does not make you a professional, or even a great artist. What does, is practicing and perfecting your craft and learning all there is to learn about it.

This program will give you all the techniques, tips and tricks you need to have a very prosperous career, but you need to utilize them. You need to work on faces and challenge yourself. You need to practice the techniques until they are second nature. If makeup is your passion, you need to pour your heart and soul into it.

Your tutor has years of experience and they are eager to share with you. Take advantage of it. Everyone at QC wants you to be a huge success. We know it can be a reality, but we cannot want it more than you do. Now pull out your books, pull out your makeup and create some magic!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
QC MAKEUP ACADEMY**

**STUDENT LOGIN**







## ABOUT QC MAKEUP ACADEMY

Launched in 2011, QC Makeup Academy is a part of QC Career School that has been certifying professionals for 30 years!

QC is proud to offer quality online distance education world-wide. Over 1,000 students enroll in QC Makeup Academy's courses each year, and many of them go on to successful careers as makeup artists in the United States, Australia, the UK, Canada, New Zealand and in many other countries!

### CONTACT US

[www.qcmakeupacademy.com](http://www.qcmakeupacademy.com)

**Email:** [info@qcmakeupacademy.com](mailto:info@qcmakeupacademy.com)

**US & Canada:** 1-800-267-1829

**United Kingdom:** 0800 066 4734

**Australia:** 1 800 358 931

**New Zealand:** 0800 451 979

### JOIN THE QC COMMUNITY!





[WWW.QCMAKEUPACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.QCMAKEUPACADEMY.COM)

