

The Art and Science of Digital Imaging

CS 197, fall 2005

“Color Grading” post-mortem

Please write a 2-3 page double-spaced (typed) *post-mortem* for your completed “color grading” project.

The purpose of a production post-mortem is to look back on a finished project and identify the various successes and failures made along the way. In this way you can learn from your own experience while it is still fresh in your mind: successful techniques can be remembered and failed ones, once identified, will be easier to avoid in future projects.

Include the following elements, but **make sure your paper is in essay form**. Don't just hand me a bulleted list of responses.

1. Your name.
2. A brief description of the problem you tried to solve (i.e., “trying to color grade a photograph of a grizzly bear to match the painting *Gas* by Edward Hopper”).
3. A brief description of your starting and your reference image.
4. A feature-by-feature summary of the changes you made, and why (i.e., “For the sky, I wanted to change the deeply saturated and multi-hued color into a dark and unsaturated blue reminiscent of nighttime. To do this, I ...”). Make specific comparisons to your reference image when you can, and **properly use the terms we've learned in class** (see below).
5. An evaluation of your final image given the original goal. This is your opportunity to say where you think your image succeeds or fails, and why. Identify what would make the image better. If you discovered something along the way that explains a particular flaw or success in the final image (i.e., “I couldn't change solid black into a brilliant green forest no matter how much I increased the value and saturation”), please note it! Was it even *possible* to succeed, given your source image? Why or why not?

Due Monday, October 3rd at the beginning of class

Please **PROOFREAD** and spell-check your work, and please hand in a physical, printed paper. I won't accept papers online or in email.

NOTE: Many students misuse the terminology of the field in their post-mortems. By far the most frequently abused word is “hue.” Remember: *hue* is NOT the same as *color*! Hue is one of the dimensions that comprises a color (the others being value and saturation) and can be thought of as that color's location on the rainbow. Here's a classic blunder, taken from a student's post-mortem from the past:

"I changed the hue from a bright white to a saturated purple."

Replacing “hue” with “color” in the above sentence makes it perfectly valid. Don't forget, hues aren't increased or decreased, brightened or darkened. They are *shifted* or *changed*. Below are some other misuses of class terminology. Why are they wrong?

"... the sky was a saturated, bright white..."

"I increased the hue for a purpler tint..."