

Handout #2 – Digital Photography 101 – Camera Purchase Worksheet

Questions to ask before you look:	How to choose a camera:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your budget? 2. Will it connect to your computer? 3. Evaluate your photographic needs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pixel depth b. Power supply requirements c. Memory needs (16 MB to 1 GB+) d. Do you have other portable devices? e. Zoom capability needed? f. Want mini-videos? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Try out cameras for a good fit <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Does it fit your hands? b. Controls easy to locate? c. Display screen large enough? d. Light enough to carry? e. Zoom power - optical or digital? 2. Purchase at a store or buy online? 3. Keep an eye on sale prices

Types of Digital Cameras – you have lots of choices!
Each step down a column adds cost to the camera.

Lens Type Choices	Case Size Choices	Pixel Depth Choices
Regular fixed lens without zoom	Compact	3 Megapixels
Regular fixed lens with zoom	Micro	4 Megapixels
Digital SLR (single-lens reflex) with interchangeable lenses	Medium	5 Megapixels
Large format	Large	Foveon 3.4 (Three layers to each pixel equivalent to 10 megapixels)

Camera Vendors – all rate highly. Your decision can be based on features and cost.	
Canon Minolta Nikon Kodak Fujifilm Olympus Pentax	Sony Casio Hewlett Packard Kyocera Toshiba Konica And many more...

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Do you use multiple portable devices – such as digital cameras, notebooks, PDAs, music players, car stereo? If so, you may want to purchase a digital camera based on the type of storage media used in your other devices.

Types of Storage Media for Digital Cameras

Type of media	Comment	Proprietary?
Secure Digital (SD)	Up and coming; projected to have highest use and broadest support.	no
Compact Flash (CF)	High capacity. Still a good choice. More devices use CF than any other media type.	no
Memory Stick (MS)		Work only in Sony cameras.
Mini-CDs, floppy disks	Slow	Some Sony cameras will accept these media
SmartMedia (SM)	Ultra-thin, fragile. Older format, starting to phase out. Limited to 128 MB storage capacity.	
MultiMediaCard (MMC)	Older format, starting to phase out. Limited to 128 MB storage capacity.	
xD-Picture Card	Smallest size and largest potential storage capacity (a promise of up to 8 GB) Can be used with PCMCIA and CompactFlash adapters.	FujiFilm, Olympus
IBM Microdrives	Require more battery power. Moving heads and discs, will occasionally crash if knocked around. Available in 500 MB and 1 GB.	
Digital camera off-load units	Hard drives in small packages that connect directly to the camera so you can download files on the road.	