

Localized Changes and Layers

Recap

- So far we discussed making changes that affect the whole image:
 - Cropping and resizing
 - Adjusting lights, darks, and color casts
- Before we move on, do you have any questions on these topics?

Localized Changes

- There are other changes that could be made to a whole image, sharpening, removing noise, etc. - but sometimes these are only done to part of a photo
- Why would you want to make changes to just part of a photo?

To Make the Subject Stand Out

- Sharpen just the subject



To Make the Photo More Interesting

- Replace the sky



To Make a Holiday Card

- Add other images



Layers

- Before we discuss localized changes, we need to understand layers
- There are 2 types of layers
 - Adjustment layers: these modify the pixels below
 - Pixel layers: these cover up the pixels below
- Both can be used in any sequence depending on what you want to do
- Both are just referred to as “layers” but they act differently

Adjustment Layers

- These are used to modify pixels – blur, sharpen, change color, create gradients, add vignette, etc.
- Photoshop and Lightroom use this functionality inherently
- Elements has the functionality but it can be bypassed
 - Using adjustment layers enables going back and tweaking the settings
 - It lowers the risk of accidentally overwriting your original photo

Pixel Layers

- These are used to cover up pixels with other pixels – move an item from one spot to another, add other elements from a different photo (like replace a sky or add another person), extend the side of a photo, etc.
- Lightroom alone can not do this
 - Changes are made by taking the image into Photoshop

Layers for Beginners

- There are many more advanced topics with layers:
 - Blend modes
 - Variations on applying the adjustments – gradients, luminosity
- Today we will demo adjustment layers and how to make localized changes using them – masking and selections

Masking and Selections

- The term “Mask” refers to the area selected for the adjustment
- There are many ways to select an area to create a mask but today we are discussing concept of masks and will not demo all the ways to make them

Demo

Summary

- Layers give you more control
- Use masks to localize effects
- Good videos to help (there are many others):
 - Adobe video tutorials – access from within program help menu
 - YouTube channel HTG Photo – many how-to videos for Elements 2024
 - YouTube channel HTG George – videos for older versions of Elements, but many still apply to 2024