**Below is a list of possible (although certainly not all-inclusive) list of mini-activities that students can use to practice different exposure techniques.**

Exposure & Metering Activities:

* Find a place where you have both very bright and very dark in the same photo (a doorway at the end of a long hallway, etc). Take the same photo using multi-segment, center-weighted, and spot metering. Try taking photos from different angles and compare your results.
* Do a similar experiment except find a dark room that has a single hanging lightbulb (or a lamp on the teacher’s desk).
* Intentionally take photos at several different exposure “stops.” Ask students to overexpose and underexpose intentionally. Then, discuss: why might an artist want to intentionally overexpose or underexpose a photo? Why would a journalist want to intentionally do that? What sorts of ethical considerations need to be taken into account?

White Balance Activities:

* Assign students to take pictures of one area of the school building with many different types of White Balance settings. (Take the same photo from the same angle, but change the White Balance for each photo). Then, come back to the classroom and have other students pick which photo uses the “correct” white balance setting.
* Instruct students to “misuse” white balance intentionally. Take photos around the school grounds using the incorrect white balance settings, and then ask students to share how that warps a viewer’s perception of reality.

Aperture Activities:

* Have students take pictures of a scene that has multiple subjects at many different distances. Photograph the scene with different apertures and see the difference in the depth of field.
* Find a small subject that stands with a background a few meters away, like a flower near a wall or a piece of trash close to a locker. Try adjusting the aperture to isolate the subject from the background with depth of field.
* Find a view. Try to photograph a landscape that has something in the foreground (a rock, a person, etc). Adjust your aperture so that you can take two different photos: one that has everything in focus in the picture, and another that only focuses on the object in the foreground.
* Have a contest: give students a limited amount of time (20 minutes or so) and see which of your students can bring back a photo that has the most pronounced use of aperture.

ISO activities:

* Have students’ test their cameras’ quality at different ISO settings. Take students outside, to a place that is shady. (For this exercise, it’s best to set cameras to Aperture Priority around 5.6.) Take a shot at 100 ISO, then 200 ISO, etc...gradually work your way all the way up to the highest setting. Then, come inside, upload the images, and take a look. (Discuss: At what ISO level does the photo quality significantly lessen? Are there scenarios when that lower quality would be “worth” getting a photo at all?
* Find an area of the building that is dark (gymnasiums work well!). Experiment with taking photos at different ISO settings to see what photos look most natural. Share and discuss with the class.

Shutter speed:

* Find a fast moving subject, like a waterfall, a drinking fountain, a student walking through the hallway. Photograph it at different shutter speeds, from slow to fast, and see what effect it has on the appearance of the subject in the photo.
* Find a dark room in the school building. Set your camera to a slow shutter speed (~10 sec) and use a tripod. Using a lighter, have a student make a shape in the air while the camera takes a photo, then share the results.
* Set your camera to a variety of slow shutter speeds – for example between 1/16 sec to 1/2 sec – and experiment with moving the camera during the exposure in different ways. Take note of how the different speeds affects the photo.
* Find a moving subject such as cars, or kids on bikes (or kids on rolling chairs down the hallway), and shoot them at the different shutter speeds. Have students take photos in different ways, including “following” the action with their camera (turning their bodies to follow the action as it comes closer) and just staring straight ahead and trying to “capture” the subject as it flies past. Compare results.
* At night, grab a tripod, or find a stable surface for your camera, and experiment with longer exposures, from one to 30 seconds. Try this with moving subjects such as people at a busy street intersection.

Flash:

* Take portraits with a flash using several different techniques.
  + First, try using the camera’s built-in flash.
  + Then, attach a dedicated flash unit to the top of your camera and take another photo.
  + Point the dedicated flash unit in several different directions (away from the subject) and try again.
  + Point the dedicated flash unit away from the subject BUT toward a large white flat object, like a piece of posterboard, that is tilted toward the subject. This will diffuse the flash and bounce it toward your subject in a more natural way.
  + Continue to experiment with this.
* Experiment with TTL, Manual, and fill flash. Take the same photo using three different settings and compare results.
  + For manual flash, practice adjusting the intensity of the flash. Take similar photos with multiple different manual settings, then compare.
* Take your flash and your camera outside in bright sunlight and take portraits. See if you can position your subject in a way that you can use a fill flash to lighten dark shadows on your subject’s face.