PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs Tutorial Assessment: White Balancing

White Balancing is the process of adjusting your camera so the colors in your image are as true as possible in a setting. Our eyes naturally adjust so that white remains white, but our cameras do not have that automatic ability.

The color temperature scale in degrees Kelvin ranges from lower heat-red to very high heat-blue. Look at the examples based on the heat produced by different light sources and notice the difference between outdoor and indoor sources.

*Explain the reasons behind the statements below:*

You should white balance a camera every time you change lighting conditions.

The automatic white balance setting on a camera is rarely your best option to get the truest colors.

Using the preset white balance setting on your camera can be tricky.

*Place a number beside each step in white balancing in the correct order:*

_____ Find something white and hold it up in front of the camera.

_____ Manually set the white balance on your camera.

_____ Set up the lighting for your location.
______ Zoom-in all the way in with your camera on a white object so that white fills the entire screen on your camera.

_Apply your knowledge of the color temperature scale to white balancing:_

Which has a higher color temperature, a cloudy day or a candle, and why?

Why will locations with outdoor lighting automatically have higher color temperatures than a location being shot indoors?

Why do we have to white balance every time there is a change in the light setting?

**Bonus:**

_List three objects you can easily find and use to do a white balance:_

1.)

2.)

3.)