Shadows, Reflections, and Silhouettes

1.) What was most challenging about this project?

The most challenging about this project is finding good subjects to take pictures of as well as timing good weather and having bright lighting because the sun or a light background is essential for silhouettes and shadows. It was difficult to produce interesting silhouette and shadow photos without good bright lighting especially when taking pictures of larger subjects like people. So, often times, I had to scale down the sizes of my subjects to smaller items. In taking the reflection photos, the most challenging was not having direct light/ flash or showing the camera as it will reflect onto the mirror/ reflection.

2.) What did you learn by doing this project?

I learned that bright lighting/ the sun is very important for creating shadows. For silhouettes, I learned that you have to place your subject against bright lights/backgrounds to create that effect. The photoshop tool called levels and curves also adjust the balance of light and darkness of the photo, making the silhouette more prominent and simply a shape with no details. I also learned that the placement of lighting will affect where the shadow will land. For example, the closer the subject is to the light, the bigger and farther the shadow is. Thus, to create my desired photo, I had to keep moving around the lighting or the subject to see which angle is best.

3.) What were you successful at? Why?

I was successful in understanding the concepts of shadows, reflections, and silhouettes. Although finding subjects to take pictures of was difficult, I was able to produce interesting pictures even with small items such as a mason jar, Rubik's cube, small hockey player statue. I also felt successful in the placement of my subjects against the background/ lighting as well as editing the silhouette photos and using the different editing tools in photoshop. Because I took my time in creating shadows, silhouettes, and reflection, their placement and editing, the photos were very successful. All of the techniques I used contributed to creating beautiful photos with shadows, reflections, and silhouettes.