Claude Werner Laviano photographer

Aperture or F-Stop

Set your Control Dial to "A" (Nikon) or "Av" (Canon)

Keep approximately 1 foot of space between the subject and the top and bottom of the camera's frame for each lens focal length.

Have the subject anywhere from 10 - 20 feet, or farther, away from the background.

The farther away the subject is from the background, the easier it is to create a softer background. This is the Long & Low technique:

Long Lens Focal Length + Lowest Aperture Number = Softer Background.

Lens Focal	Lowest	Medium	Largest
Length	Aperture #	Aperture #	Aperture #
18 mm	f 3.5	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32
35 mm	f 3.5	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32
55 mm	f 4.5	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32
70 mm	f 4.5	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32
135 mm	f 4.5	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32
200 mm	f 4.5	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32
250 mm	f 5.6	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32
300 mm	f 5.6	f 8 or f 11	f 22 or f 32

Use the Lowest & Largest Aperture Number possible on your camera. The above list is a good reference point.

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