Fixing Common Photo Problems: Presented by Nancy Clements Beasley

- A. Color Cast Problem
- B. Removing Unwanted Items
- C. Areas of image too dark or too light
- D. Areas of Image are Under-saturated or Over-saturated

A. Color Cast (Can use this for any image that seems to have an overcast color, where the White Balance used in Adobe Camera Raw doesn't quite work, or where you want to make sure the color is dead on):

There are a number of different options, if one doesn't work, try another.
Don't rely on one option, if it doesn't look right, try another.

1. Auto Method
This has improved dramatically over last couple of years -
Image/Auto Color/

2. Average Method
Duplicate background layer "Cmd/Cntl J", on that layer do a *Filter/Blur/Average*
This results in a color that is basically the color cast,
"Cmd/Cntr I" to invert the image,
Change the Blend Mode in Layers Panel to Vivid Light

3. Curves Adjustment Method
Add a Curves Adjustment Layer (*Layer/New Adjustment Layer/Curves*),
Within the Properties Window Control:
    Click on the On Image Control Icon (Up/Down Finger Icon, upper Left)
    Find a place on image where your point is indicated in the center of curve
        Hold down shift key, and click once,
        That will put a color sampler point on image,
        Turn off the On Image Control,
        Go to set grey point eye dropper,
    Hold down caps key and go to the sampler point and merge the two points

B. Removing Unwanted Items (Can use this for any image that has unwanted elements such as removing bright areas, shadows, districting background elements, glasses glare, etc)

1. Select the unwanted area and save selection
    a. Select unwanted area using Quick selection tool or any method your comfortable with.
    b. Save Selection (*Select/Save Selection*), in Save Selection dialog box name your selection using a descriptive name (i.e., white area upper left)
    c. Unselect selection ("Cmd/Ctrl D")

2. Select on area in image that you can use to replace the unwanted area (I usually use the Lasso Tool ("L").
    a. Add a layer with the selected area ("Cmd/Ctrl J")
    b. Use Move Tool ("V") to move the replacement area over the unwanted area.
    c. Add a Black Mask to the Replacement Area ("Cmd/Ctrl *Add Layer Mask"*
3. Load your previous saved selection (Make sure the newly added Mask is active) – *Select/Load Selection.* The loaded selection will be in the Channel Pull Down Menu in the Load Selection dialog Box
    a. Using a White Paint Brush (I usually use a soft brush) paint in the new area over the unwanted area.

C. Areas of image too dark or too light

1. Create a New Layer
    a. Fill the new layer with 50% Grey (*Edit/Fill*)
    b. Change Blend Mode of New Active Layer to Overlay
    c. Name New Layer "Burn and Dodge" (Double Click on New Layer Name and change it.
2. Paint on the new layer to lighten or darken it (Use a Soft Brush "B", set to 10% Opacity)
    a. Make sure the Foreground Color/Background Color is Pure White and Pure Black – Press "D", Press "X" to switch between these two.
    b. Use White to brighten areas.
    c. Use Black to darken areas

D. Areas of Image are Under-saturated or Over-saturated

1. Create a New Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer
    a. I like to name the new layer appropriately (Double Click on Layer name and change)
2. Change the saturation and lightness/darkness (Using the Properties dialog Box) as desired for the area of the image you are trying to change. The whole image will be changed – don't worry about that. This will be corrected in next couple of steps.
3. Once you have the saturation correct, invert the Hue/Saturation Layer Mask to black (with the Mask active and press "Option/Alt I".
4. Using a soft white Brush paint in the desired area so that the Hue/saturation layer shows
5. Note: If areas of your image need different Saturations amounts (one area needs saturation added while one area needs de-saturated, you need to add a new Hue/Saturation Adjustment layer for each