Processing RAW Files in CS4

Watch the instructional video online

Bridge-Browser for Camera Raw and Photoshop

Open Bridge CS4, Select the directory (folder) where your files are located-NOT THE MEMORY CARD. Select all the images (Edit<Select All) and use the slideshow feature to rank and rotate imagery. (View<Slideshow) In the Slide show, "H" toggles the Instructions. Use the spacebar to pause or resume. To rotate use, the "[" key for counterclockwise and "]" for clockwise, ninety degree rotation. The next step is to edit, to rank all the images with nothing or 1 star. You can do this most easily by selecting all or none of the images and invoke the slide show from the top menu. Press the space bar once to stop the sequence and then use the numbers pad to give it nothing (if it is unusable) or 1 star if it is useable. After that's done to all 100 images, choose (on the left panel) only the 1 star images. Repeat the slide show and upgrade the ratings to 2 or 3 stars as deserved. At the end we want to be able to select the top 10 images, and show only those picks.

Camera Raw: To translate these images, I suggest you start with only one image at a time (File<Open in Camera RAW). CS4's translator now brings up the image with adjustments on the right in various tabs. Look at the bottom at the Workflow Options, and make certain that the color space is Adobe RGB and the Depth is 16 bits per channel, and you check "open as smart object". Leave the size and resolution at the default.

Begin at the first tab (Basic) and work down starting with exposure. Use this to adjust the bright areas (highlights). Next adjust the blacks to get a good black in the shadows and then use Fill to open the dark shadows where there should be detail.
Normally we would adjust the color at the top first, but we are going to be making B&W images for the first 3 assignments. To do this, select all your images and right click and "open in Camera Raw". It may take a bit but select the first image and move to the bottom of the Basic tab and move the saturation all the way to the left. Next click select all and then synchronize to make all your images B&W. Click done and they will all become B&W and return to Bridge. No need to save these adjustments as it is automatic for Camera Raw adjustments. Now go through and rank them in Slide Show until you have at least 10 with the highest ranking. Now correct all ten and then choose the best 4 to print.