Basic Photo Editing Using Adobe Photoshop

USITT Intro to Web Portfolio PDW - 3/17/15

1) Open one of your images in Photoshop by dragging the image by dragging the image over your Photoshop icon

(See Example at the bottom of the image to the right)

2) Or Open one of your portfolio imgages from within Photoshop using the File dropdown menu, clicking open, and using the navigation window to open your image.



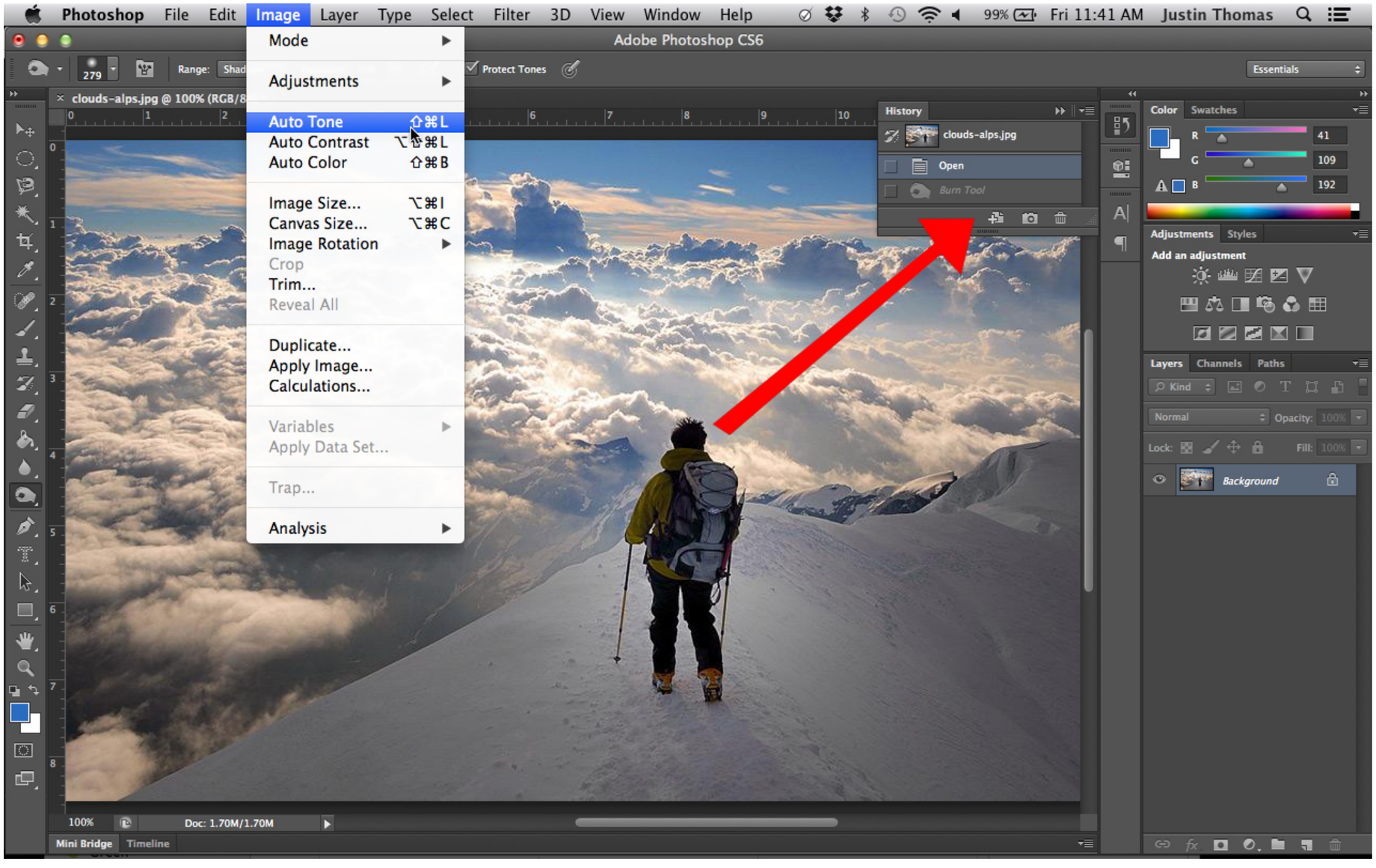
Auto Tone - Power of Photoshop Auto editing

1) A good rule of thumb is to use the AUTO TONE, AUTO CONTRAST, and AUTO COLOR options included in the Photoshop software.

2) Use the IMAGE dropdown menu, and select AUTO TONE from the options.

NOTE: 9 of 10 times, this yields a positive result. If it doesn't, hit Command-Z to undo (or Control-Z if using a Windows platform).

NOTE: Adobe has a history window, which can be seen at the end of the red arrow. This history will hold a number of steps you may undo.



Using Photoshop Layers - Never Lose Your Original

1) Before doing major edits, save your image under a new file name.

2) Also, instead of editing the original image, Photoshop provides the opportunity to LAYER images on top of each other. Let's make a copy of your image that you can edit while still reserving the original image data.

3) Go to the LAYERS window in the bottom right of your screen, click and hold onto the "Background" layer. Your pointer should turn into a closed fist as demonstrated in the image to the right.

4) While holding the layer, drag it down to the icon at the end of the red arrow (see image to the right).

5) Let go of your layer.

6) Your image should look the same, but you should now have two layers in your layers menu.



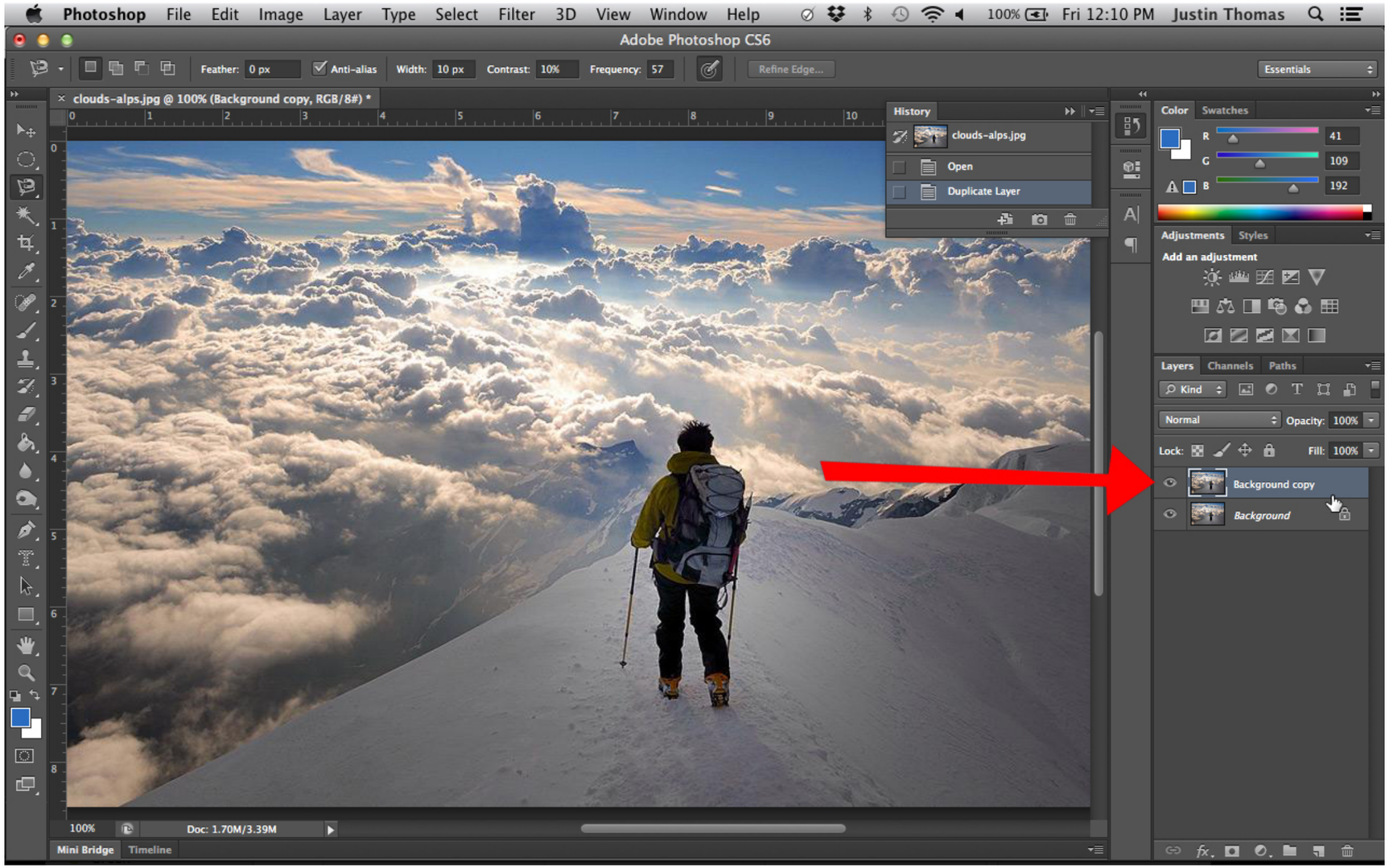
Using Photoshop Layers - Never Lose Your Original

1) You can turn layers on and off by clicking the "eyeball" to the next of the layer.

2) Click on your Background Copy Layer to select it. IT is now active, and any editing you do will take place in this layer. Your background layer contains the original picture information.

3) You can rename your layer if you so choose. To do this, double-click on the layer name. It should highlight and allow you to type a new name.

4) A general good rule when doing basic editing is to turn off your background layer and only edit in your new layer.

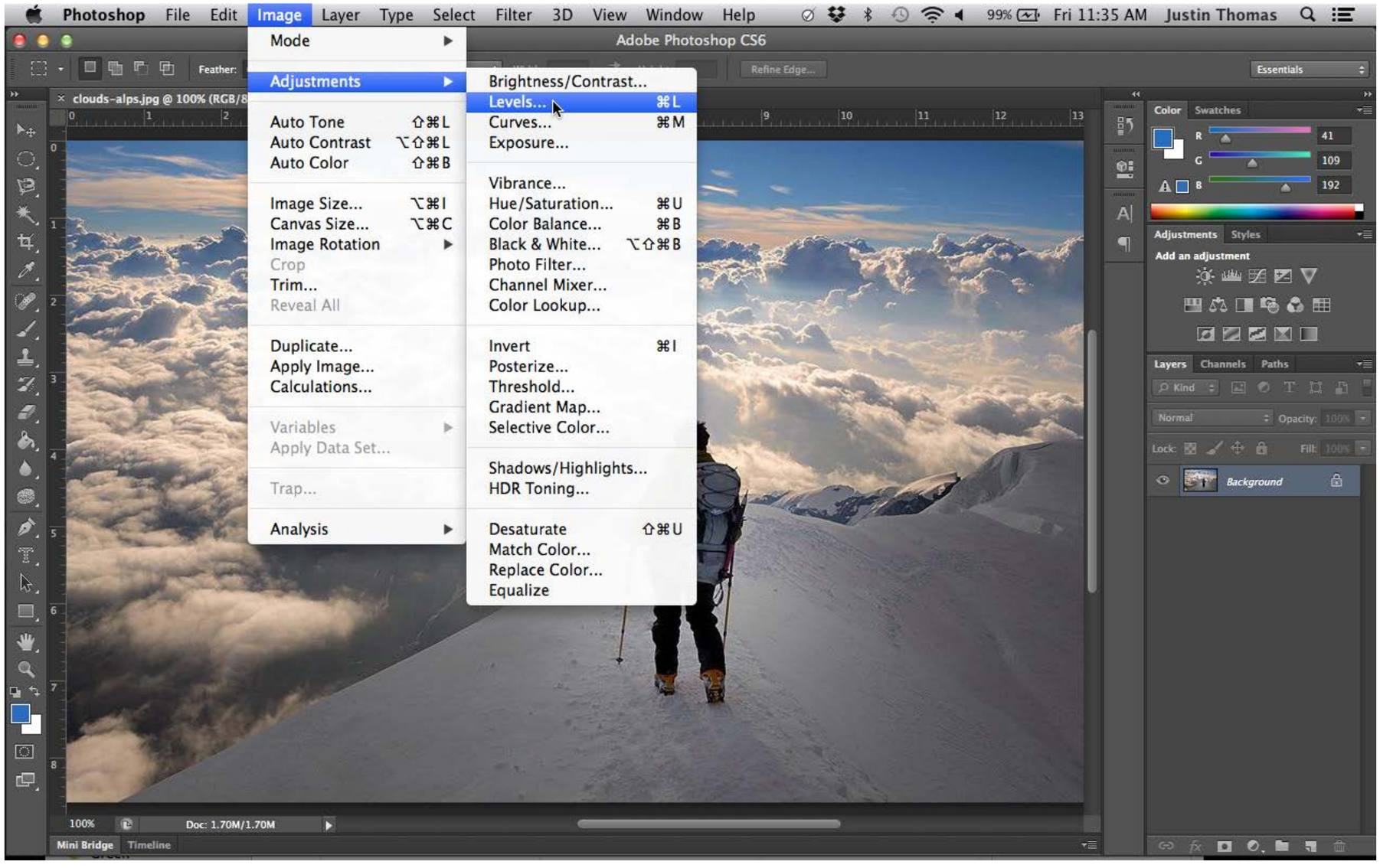


Brighten and Darken Your Image with LEVELS

1) Use the IMAGE dropdown menu.

2) Select ADJUSTMENTS and then LEVELS.

NOTE: the symbols to the right of Levels are the keyboard shortcuts to open the Levels window. These shortcuts exist in almost every program. For MAC users, the symbol denotes the COMMAND key. For WINDOWS users, it will be CONTROL L.



Brighten and Darken Your Image with LEVELS

1) In the image to right, you can see the levels window. The graph deontes where most of the image date exists along a VALUE SCALE.

2) The three arrows underneath the graph correspond to SHADOWS, MIDTONES, and HIGHLIGHTS.

3) You can click and drag these arrows to the left or right to change the image. Notice that that in the image to the right, the shadows arrow has been moved to the right, darkening the image. The hiker now appears to be in silhouette.



Dodge, Burn, and Sponge - Detail Editing

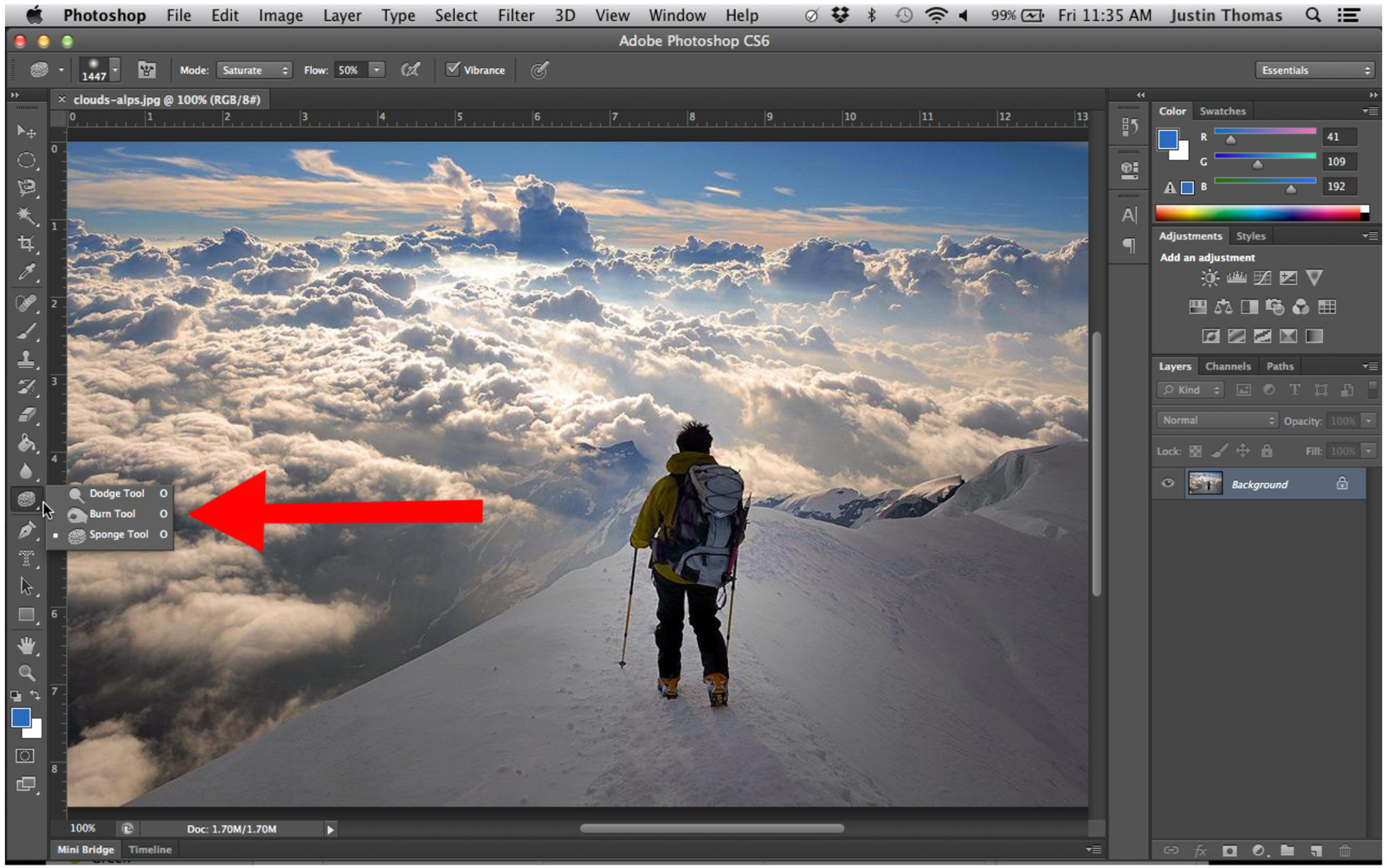
1) In your tool bar on the left, look for one of the three icons you see at the end of the red arrow in the image to the right.

2) Select the BURN tool. The BURN tool will darken parts of the image wherever you "paint." The DODGE tool will brighten parts of the image. We will get to the SPONGE tool in a minute.

3) The BURN tool operates as a paint brush, and you can choose the size and style of that brush.

4) You may also choose what value in the image you wish to "BURN" or darken. The tool operates with SHADOWS, MIDTONES, and HIGHLIGHTS just as the LEVELS tool that we learned earlier.

5) On the next page, I will show you how to select your BRUSH SIZE and choose a VALUE to darken.



Dodge, Burn, and Sponge - Detail Editing

1) After selecting the BURN tool, you will notice that your options at the top have changed. At the end of the red arrow in the image to the right, you will notice a number and a circle. Click on this box.

2) The dropdown window that opens will allow for you to select a different style of brush, change its size, and its hardness. Take a moment to experiment with the different sizes and brushes.

NOTE: I find it useful to choose a feathered brush when using the BURN, DODGE, and SPONGE tools. It helpst to blend any changes I make to the image with the original image. A Hard-Edged brush will create a noticeable shape in the image when editing.



Dodge, Burn, and Sponge - Detail Editing

1) Select a feathered brush with a large size for this exercise.

2) After selecting the brush, look to the right. You will notice a box that says HIGHLIGHT, MIDTONE, or SHADOW. Choose SHADOW.

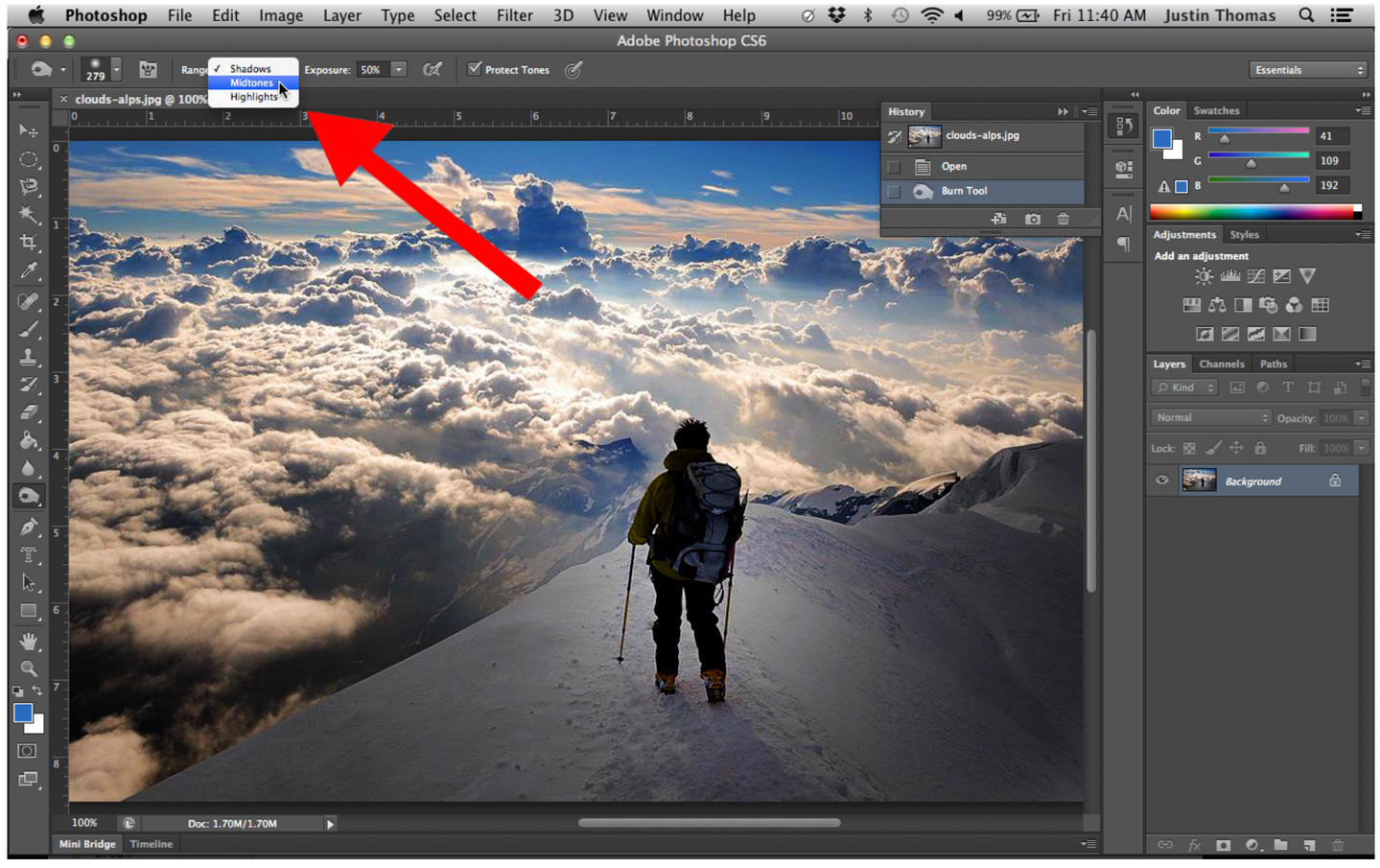
3) In your image, find an area of shadow that you wish to darken. Click, hold, and scrub over this area.

NOTE: When editing a large file with a large brush, it often takes time for the computer to "catch-up." You may notice slow response time or potential "freezing" while scrubbing. Make sure to save often and scrub one area at a time.

4) Choose the DODGE tool, select your brush, and choose MIDTONES.

5) Scrub over an area you wish to brighten.

6) Take a few moments and play to create an appropriate visual emphasis in your image.



Sponge Editing - Bringing Out Image Color

1) Select your SPONGE tool and choose an appropriate brush size.

2) The window next to the brush will say SATURATE or DESATURATE. Choose the SATURATE option, and scrub over an area in your image to bring out the color information.

NOTE: Note the vibrance of the blue sky in the image to the right. It has been continually scrubbed using the sponge tool.

There is a point of diminishing returns when using this tool. I have found more success when turning down the EXPOSURE option. This can be found next to your SATURATE/DESATURATE selection box at the top of the screen.



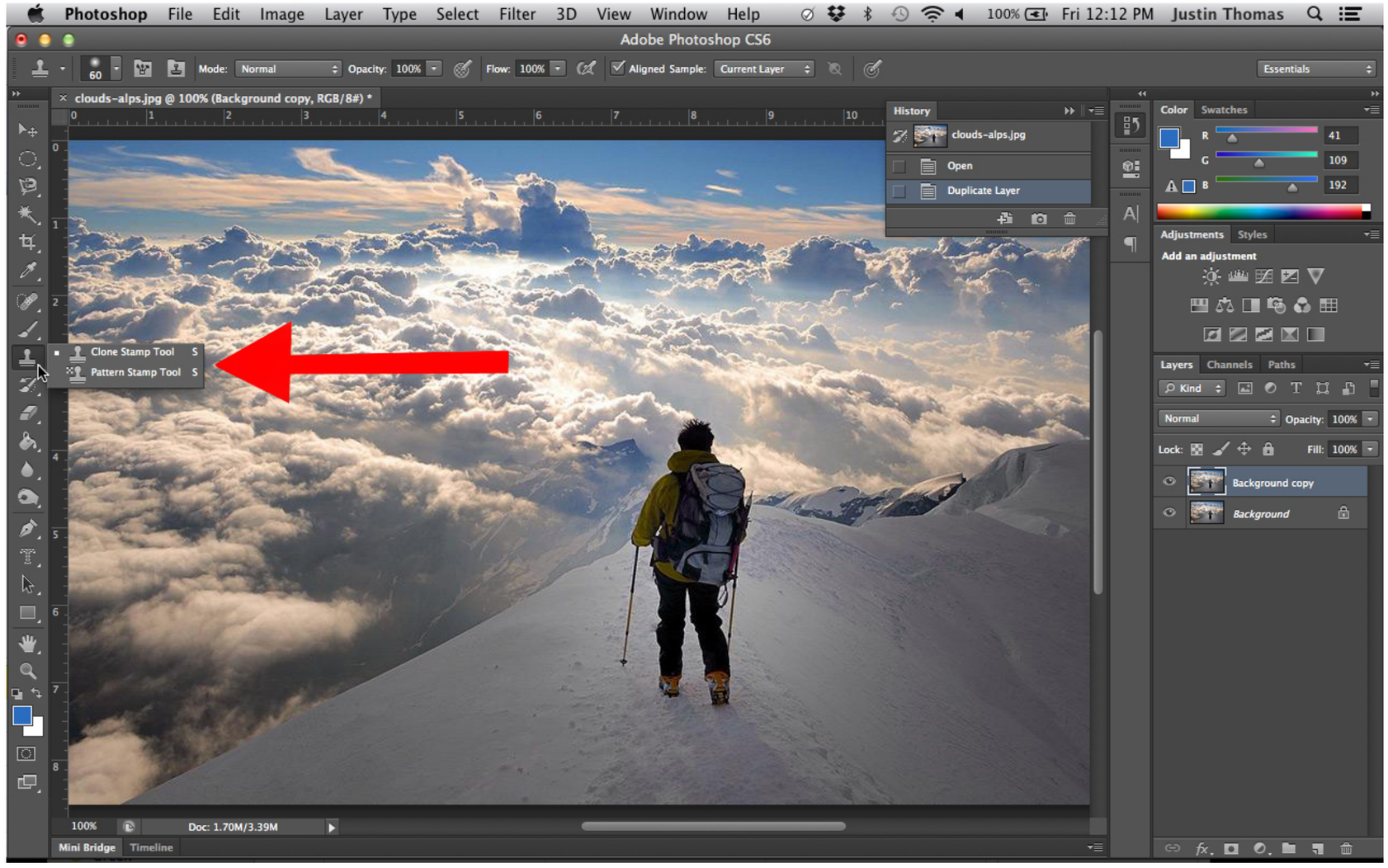
Cloning - A More-Successful Eraser Tool

1) Find and Select the Clone Stamp Tool from your toolbox on the left of the screen. (See the arrow in the image on the right).

2) In your image, find something you want to duplicate. On the next page, I show you how to use the tool.

NOTE: You can change the brush size and shape in the CLONE STAMP tool as well. Again, I often use a feathered brush to blend alterations into the original image.

In this exercise, I will clone the hiker multiple times. However, I frequently use this tool to "ERASE" exit signs or distracting lighting fixtures, etc. from an image.



Cloning - A More-Successful Eraser Tool

1) Your cursor should look like a the normal brush. Hold your ALT (Windows) or OPTION (Mac) key down.

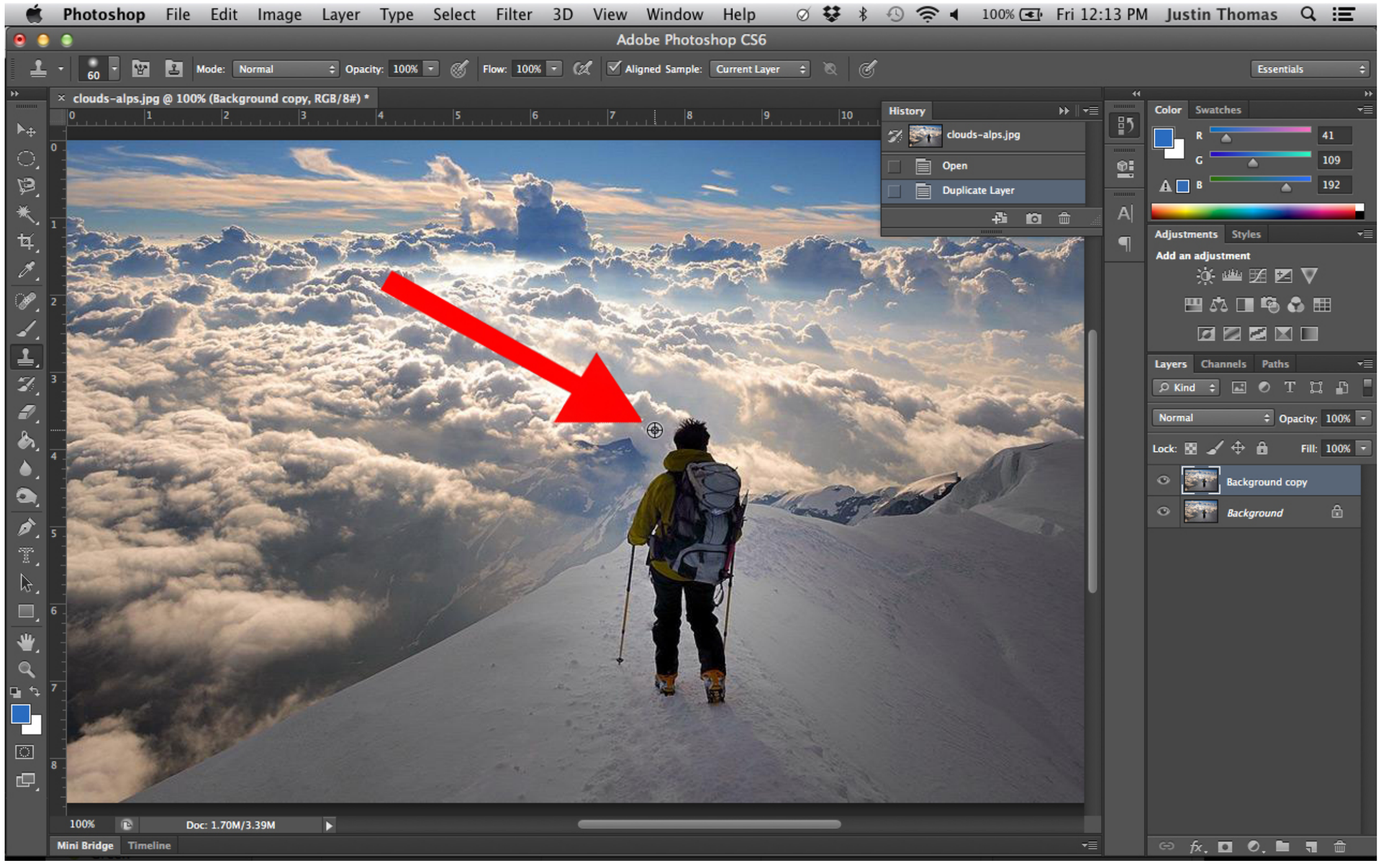
2) Your cursor should now look like the cursor at the end of the arrow in the image on the right.

3) Place your cursor over the portion of the image you wish to duplicate and then click and let go.

4) Release the ALT or OPTION key.

NOTE: This creates the origin point of your clone.

5) Place your regular cursor where you would like your clone to begin. Click, hold, and scrub slowly.



Cloning - A More-Successful Eraser Tool

1) Notice that as you scrub, you now have two active cursors (see image to the right)

2) The circle is painting, and the "+" icon is what you are cloning.

NOTE: The distance between your origin point and where you started drawing is now the distance between your two cursors. This distance is static.

In the image to the right, I set my origin point on the center of the hiker's head. Wherever I placed my paintbrush and clicked, another head would appear.

As I clicked, I held the mous button and pulled down to create the rest of the hiker's body.

Take a moment to experiment and play with the clone tool.

