

Name: _____ Per: _____

Elements of Photographic Composition

Composition: is a well composed, balanced photograph.

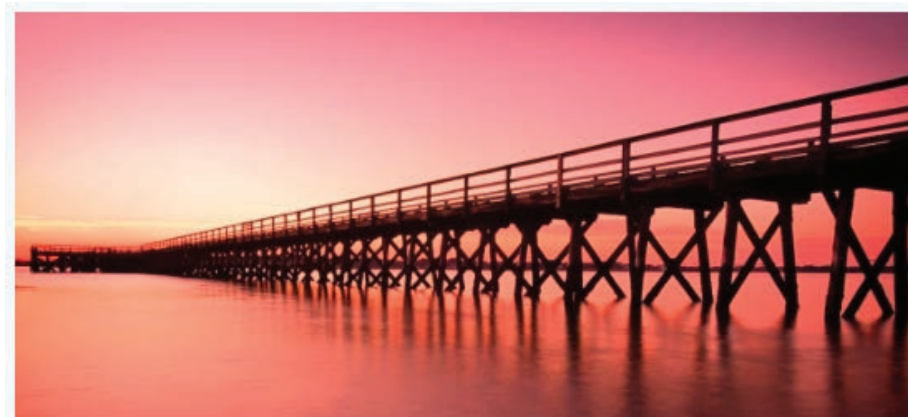
The Rule of Thirds

Beginning photographers can't go wrong with the Rule of Thirds. When looking through your camera, visualize the scene before you with a grid consisting of two vertical and two horizontal lines, similar to a tic-tac-toe pattern, placed over it. Place the main subject of your photo on one of the points where the vertical and horizontal lines intersect.



Leading lines

Leading lines, whether intentional or accidental or man-made or natural, draw your eye through a photograph:



Foreground, middle, and background

Think about a photograph's composition as having foreground, middle, and background elements. For example, when looking for foreground elements in the front part of your image, consider an object as simple as a large rock, like this one at Baxter Lake in New Hampshire:

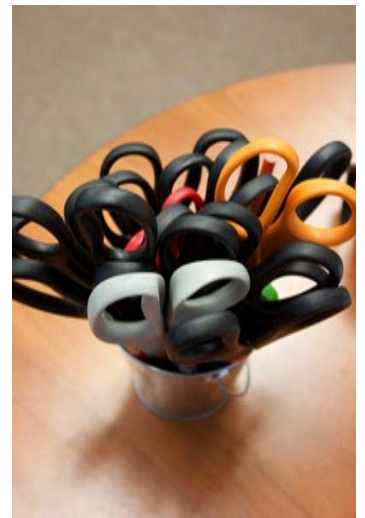


Your foreground element isn't necessarily the main subject of your photograph, but rather a starting place for the viewer's eye.

For vast scenic landscapes, think about the placement of the horizon, too. I'll place the horizon on one of the horizontal lines in the grid pattern, and never — well almost never — dead center in the frame. Whether I place the horizon on the upper or lower third of the image depends almost entirely on one thing: the sky. If your sky is featureless and boring, include less of it by placing the horizon in the upper third of the frame

Depth of field: refers to the range of distance (area) that appears acceptably sharp or clear in an image and is controlled by the fstop. The more open the aperture (lower fstop number such as f4.5) the more of the subject will be in focus. Your focus should be on your subject or your main point of **emphasis**.

Clarity: How clear and in focus an image is. When not done correctly, an image turns out blurry. If your image lacks clarity, seeing the subject, understanding the emphasis will be difficult and the image will lack any perceived depth of field.



Photography Lighting:

Lighting: The time of day, or artificial set up that allows for a full value range (lightness and darkness) within an image

- **The worst time of day to take a photo outside is noon** with lots of bright light.
- **The best lighting situation to shoot in natural light** on a cloudy day.
- **It is important to have light in front of your subject instead of behind** to avoid back-lighting and a dark subject.



back light

front light