

Compositional Devices

Building on, and incorporating the visual elements and principles of design, compositional devices help an artist arrange objects on canvas, a sheet of paper, or through a viewfinder for maximum visual impact.

For this project, you will be taking a series of photos that show an understanding of these devices. Below are examples of the 6 compositional devices.

Remember, you will probably be combining more than one of these devices! For example, you may want to incorporate the rule of thirds with simplification of a background.

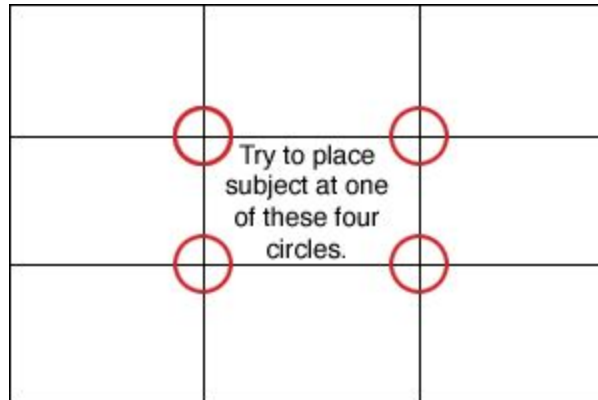
1.Simplify

Remove any visual clutter from the background of your photo. This will focus your viewer's attention on why you are taking the photo.



2. Rule of thirds

Imagine your viewfinder has been split into thirds both vertically, and horizontally with solid lines. At the intersection of these lines is where you would ideally place your subject to situate it in its background.



3. Balance

There are two types of balance; symmetrical and asymmetrical. I would like you to show an example of each one.

Asymmetrical balance means that the picture is not weighted too much to one side and is counterweighted by an object that doesn't leave the subject about to fall out of the photo.



Symmetrical balance means having an image that is near to a mirror image of itself if the page was folded, or split, into two halves.



4. Lines

Lines are the most basic of the visual elements. They can be very powerful by themselves, or in multiples, and can be used to “lead” a viewer’s eye down a path, especially when the line has multiple arcs. This is known as an “S” curve.

You will be taking examples of both of these styles of line, straight and “S” curve.





6. Framing

Framing simply draws the viewer's attention to what is inside the frame. Be as creative as you can with it. Framing doesn't have to use a traditional frame, it could be the silhouettes of some branches framing a sunset, for example.



For this project, you will be handing in 7 photos, one photo where each of the following compositional devices is dominant/evident:

1. Simplification
2. Rule of thirds
3. Asymmetrical balance
4. Symmetrical balance
5. Straight lines
6. S curve
7. Framing

These will be handed in as a .pdf, with each photograph labelled. You will be given more direction as to exactly where these are to be submitted.