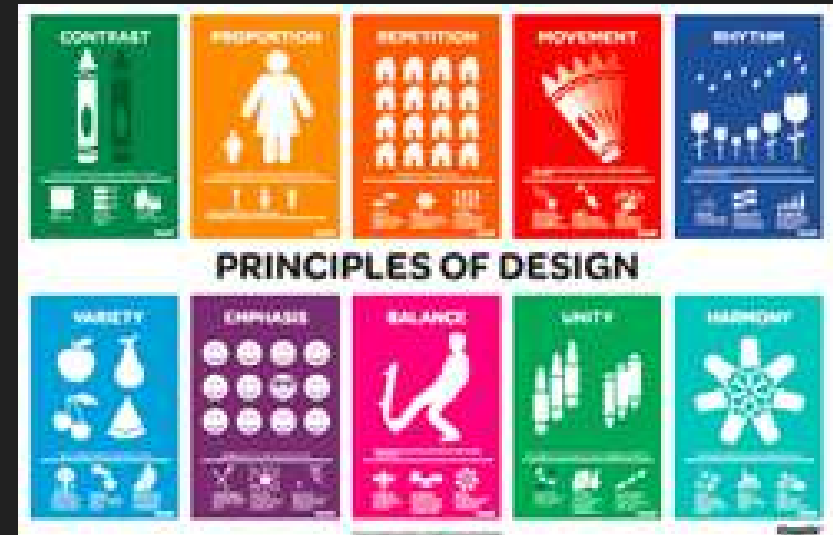
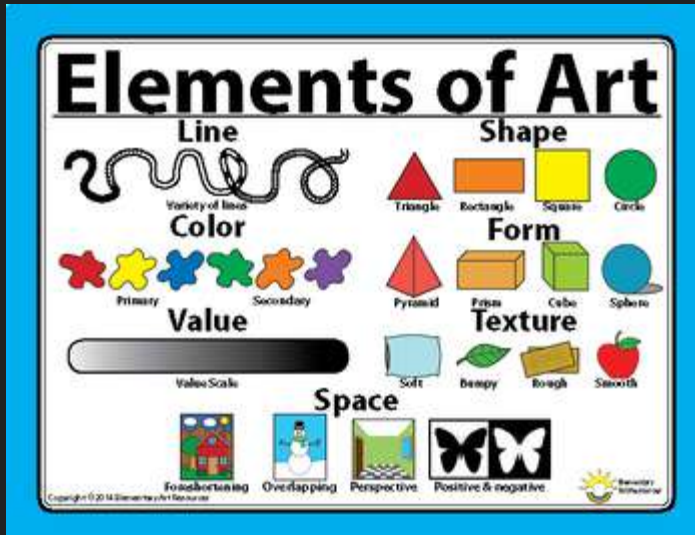


# COMPOSITION

How to Improve Your Photographs

# What is **COMPOSITION**?

- “Putting Together”
- **The placement or arrangement of visual elements of a photograph**
  - Elements (lines, shape, form, color, space, texture, value)
  - Principles (rhythm, balance, emphasis, proportion, harmony, variety, movement)



# Why is **COMPOSITION** *important*?

These are ***GUIDELINES***

- Help you take more compelling photographs
- Give a natural balance
- Draw attention to important parts of scene
- Leading viewer's eye through image



**HELPS YOU SEE WHY SOME PHOTOS “WORK” WHILE OTHERS  
FEEL LIKE SIMPLE SNAPSHOTS**



# Types of Compositional Layouts: **Rules of Thirds**

Divide image into 9 equal segments: 2 vertical/ 2 horizontal lines

***PLACE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS ALONG THESE LINES/ AT THE INTERSECTING POINTS***

- Provides balance
- Provides interest



# Types of Compositional Layouts: **Balance**

Placing main subject off-centre (like rule of thirds)

CAN LEAVE A VOID IN SCENE- Can make it feel empty- *Be careful!!*

**BALANCE THE VISUAL “WEIGHT” OF YOUR SUBJECT (include another object of lesser importance to balance the space)**

- Provides interest



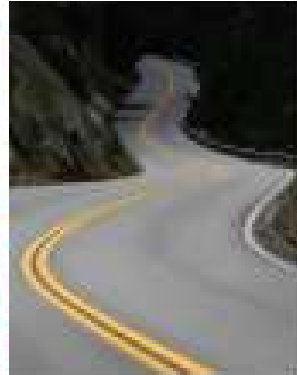
# Types of Compositional Layouts: **Leading Lines**

Eye naturally drawn along lines within photograph

**PULL VIEWER INTO PHOTOGRAPHS: Through scene or to subject**

Various Lines:

- Straight
- Diagonal
- Curvy
- Zigzag
- Radial
- Dotted



# Types of Compositional Layouts: **Symmetry & Patterns**

**Break symmetry or patterns- INTRODUCE TENSION AND FOCAL POINT TO SCENE**

**“EYE CATCHING”**- especially in situations where they are not expected

Natural or Man-made

**Symmetry:** horizontal,  
vertical, radial



# Types of Compositional Layouts: **Viewpoint**

Before taking photograph- take time to think about where you will shoot from

Massive Impact on Composition

## **EFFECTS MESSAGE OF SHOT**

### Viewpoints:

- High above (Bird's Eye)
- Down on ground (Worm's Eye)
- From side
- From back
- From long way away
- From close up





# Types of Compositional Layouts:

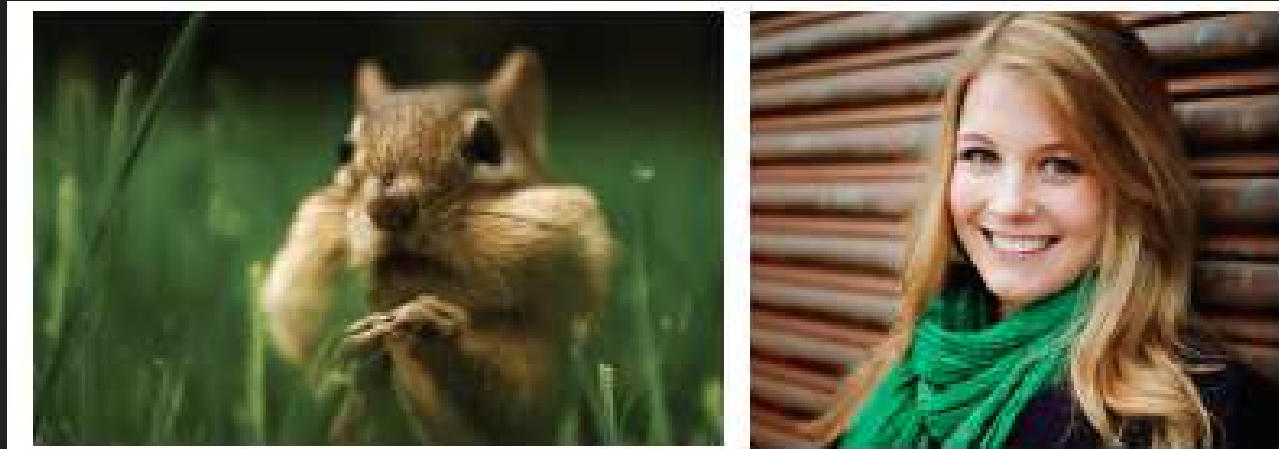
## Background Simplicity

Human eye is excellent at distinguishing between different elements in scene, but **camera has tendency to flatten foreground and background**

Look for plain and unobtrusive backgrounds

Compose shot:

- that doesn't distract
- Detract from subject



# Types of Compositional Layouts:

## Depth and Overlapping

Photographs- 2D

Compose to create Depth→ **OVERLAPPING** DELIBERATELY OBSCURE ONE OBJECT WITH ANOTHER

- Objects in foreground
- Objects in middle ground
- Objects in background

**Eye recognizes layers**

- mentally separates them
- (creating more depth)



# Types of Compositional Layouts: **Framing**

World full of objects to make perfect NATURAL FRAMES

**HELP ISOLATE MAIN SUBJECT FROM OUTSIDE WORLD**

Result: more focused image/ draw eye in

## Examples:

- Trees
- Archways
- Hills
- Holes



# Types of Compositional Layouts: **CROPPING**

Often photo will lack impact- main subject too small; lost among clutter; fails to convey a mood/message because too much is shown

## **TIGHT AROUND SUBJECT- ELIMINATE BACKGROUND “NOISE”**

Subject gets ‘attention’



# Types of Compositional Layouts: **EXPERIMENTATION (break the rules!)**

Take advantage of the fact we live in a digital age

- You don't have to worry about film processing costs; running out of shots

**TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT!**



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