

# Cropping for Improved Composition

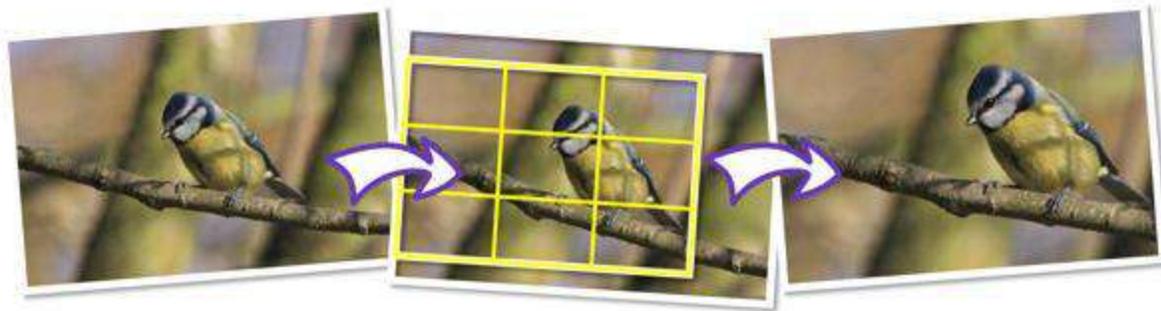
---

Ms. Gilbert

Photography 1

## Cropping II: Why Crop Images?

In this tutorial we'll illustrate some effective and powerful cropping techniques to improve your images and turn ordinary images into something stylish and dynamic!



By the end of this tutorial you will be able to:

- Reinvent a photo by cropping it to create a landscape or portrait rotation.
- Use cropping as a way to zoom into an important area of a photo.
- Throw away your fears and crop drastically to enhance your photo compositions.

### Let's begin...

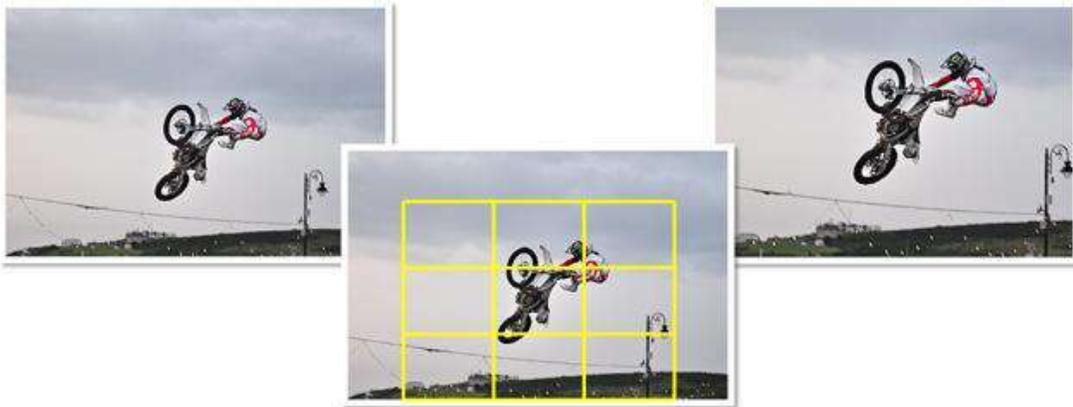
So, why would you crop an image?

Cropping is easy and, when planned carefully, can greatly improve the composition and visual impact of a digital photo. Here are a few of the main reasons why you should crop an image:

1. **Improve photo composition.**
  2. **Give your image focus.**
  3. **"Zoom in" on a subject.**
  4. **Change the canvas orientation to better suit the composition.**
  5. **Change the aspect ratio for printing.**
  6. **Get creative and add originality and drama.**
- Cropping is destructive! The best approach is to save a copy of your image first and then apply the crop to the copy. If you work on an original, make a mistake and then save the image, the changes are permanent and cannot be undone. However if you preserved the original, you can start the process again using another copy.
  - You can crop larger areas when photos are shot at a high resolution. Keep this in mind before taking photos and make sure your camera is set to its highest resolution and image quality.

### 1. Improve composition

One of the best ways of improving composition is to use the Rule of Thirds. We mentioned this rule a thousand times, but it's so important in photo composition, we've mentioned it here as well. Divide your image into a 3 x 3 grid and position the main focal points along one or more of the intersecting lines.



If you look closely, you'll see that we've obeyed this rule in nearly all of our examples! Just as a reminder, you can add a Rule of Thirds grid to any crop selection by selecting the Thirds grid check box on the Crop context toolbar. The Rule of Thirds is also a great way to add impact to otherwise normal images. However, as with all rules, sometimes it's good to break them!

When photographing people, it is common to line the body up with a vertical line, and ideally have the subject's eyes in line with a horizontal one.



You should always consider the path of moving subjects and, generally, leave space in front of them into which they can move. Notice how it gives the image more movement.



It's also important to remove any part of the photo that doesn't contribute to the overall effect.



## 2. Give your image focus

Composition and focus often go hand in hand. A good photo should draw the eye to the main subject instantly. If you have a lot of distracting elements in the background of your image, crop them out!



## 3. Zooming in

Zooming closely into a subject can strengthen a focal point. Extreme cropping can highlight fascinating details.



## 4. Change orientation

You may find that a certain orientation suits some photos better than others. If you haven't allowed for this when taking your photo with your camera, change it with a crop!



To complete this assignment:

1- Using the three images uploaded to google classroom, crop the images using these guidelines to improve their composition. Save each of these as a .jpg and hand in just your new cropped version for them.

2-Then choose **two of your own** homework or assignment images, and do the same. Save the cropped version as a .jpg, and also hand into me the uncropped version.

Hand in to me **SEVEN** files on Google classroom:

1- the three images I gave you now cropped, plus your 2 original (uncropped) HW images and the improved cropped images. They all should be named:

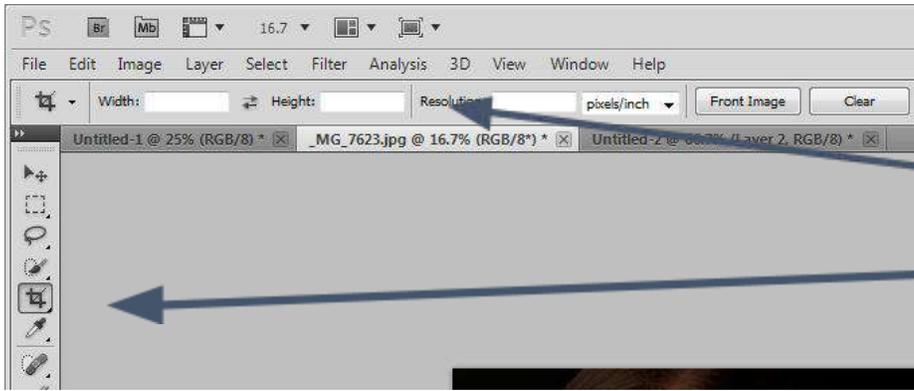
YOURLASTNAME\_Cropping1

YOURLASTNAME\_Cropping2

YOURLASTNAME\_Cropping3, etc

Upload all seven images to your google drive, in your photography folder (NOT in the “classroom” folder). Make a new folder called “cropping tutorial” and put all seven files in there. Turn them into the assignment on Classroom from your google drive.

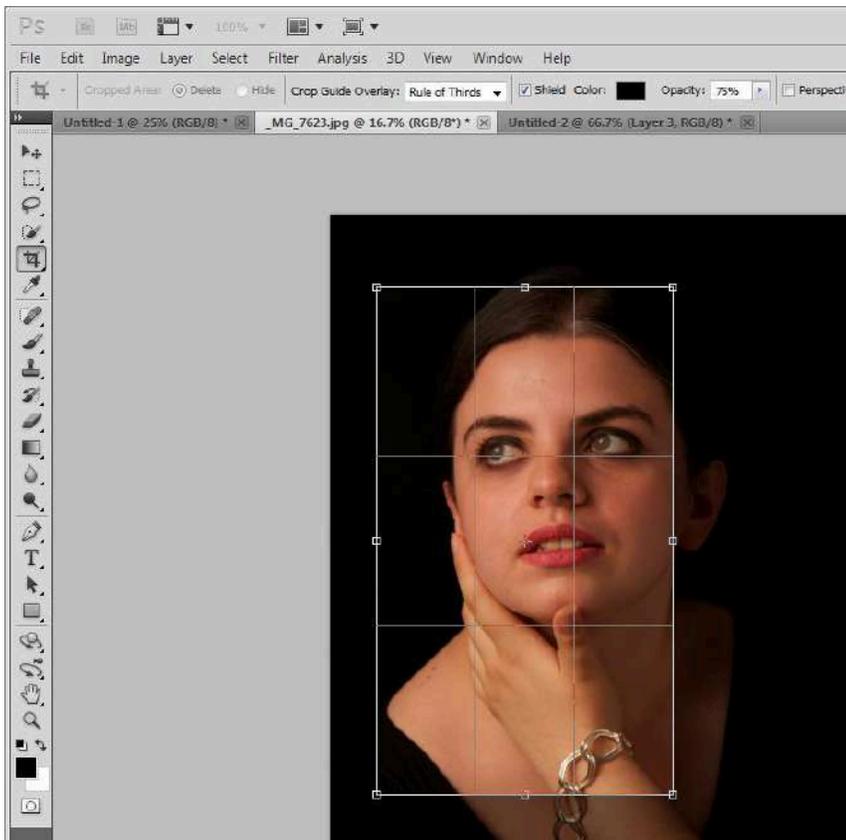
## The cropping tool is:



your settings should be empty, as seen here:

This is the cropping tool

When you have the area you want:



either double click in the area you want to keep, click on the check mark in the upper right corner or click back on the cropping tool and choose "crop"

then save as a .jpg (use "Save as" to keep your original image!) and put in the folder in your My Documents for this assignment. Then upload all the new ones, and the originals of JUST YOUR pictures (I already have the originals of the ones I gave you) into a folder in your google drive, make sure they are named correctly, and then turn in on google classroom from your drive.