

Photography “Rules”

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More active and mindful choices

Be Active and Move!

Move yourself, move your camera, or move objects to get a better composition

Point your camera in different directions

Move your body higher or lower



Be Quick, Be Ready, or Wait

Be ready at all times to capture that perfect "decisive moment." Or wait for one.



The Decisive Moment
-Henri Cartier-Bresson-

Avoid Clutter!

- Minimize the Unnecessary
- Do not include extra stuff that distracts the viewer.
- Do not ignore the background. Be aware of everything in the frame.

The clutter in the background takes away from the picture



Avoid Clutter!

That doesn't mean that you cannot have anything besides the main subject. Just only include things that help the image, not hurt it by distracting the viewer.

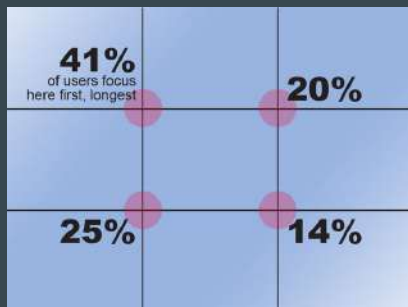


The Rule of Thirds

Don't put objects directly in the center. Or maybe you should.

To the side usually makes a dynamic photograph. Centered objects are static.

When photos follow the rule of thirds, it helps the eye to move across the image.



Rule of Thirds

When photos follow the rule of thirds, it helps the eye to move across the image. This is known as a dynamic composition.



Rule of Thirds

Affects vertical and square images as well.



Rule of Thirds

Subjects in the center of a mostly symmetrical photo give a formal static look



Eyespace or Looking Space

Show the area your subject is looking into.



eyespace cut off, giving a sense of unease



eyespace shown

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eyespace shown

Pole Head

Watch out for background objects coming out of your subject's head



Show Space in Portraits

Portraits have a sense of space if there is at least 4 feet of nothingness behind a person. When subject is right up against wall, no sense of space is shown.



Show the Unexpected



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Of course, you can break the rules...