

Rules of Composition

{ Read an article from the website before each rule

[http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/
guidelines for better photographic comp
osition.html](http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photographic_composition.html)

How to take good photos

& How can you tell if you have a “good” photo?

& “It’s pretty!” ...

& “It looks good!” ...

& “I like it!” ...

& Ok...you may *know* that you have a good photo, but can you tell me how to *take* a good picture?

Misha, 2017



Simplicity

↳ http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photographic_composition_simplicity.html

Misha, 2017



Simplicity

↳ Focusing attention on the subject.

Bithia, 2015



Simplicity

⌘ a simple background will help to focus attention on the subject.

Olivia, 2015



Simplicity

‣ Zooming in on a subject can also help you with your simplicity.

Needs help!
How would
you simplify?



Needs help!
How would
you simplify?

A new angle that
allows the viewer
to focus on the
foremost flowers
instead of the
grass below it







Rule of Thirds

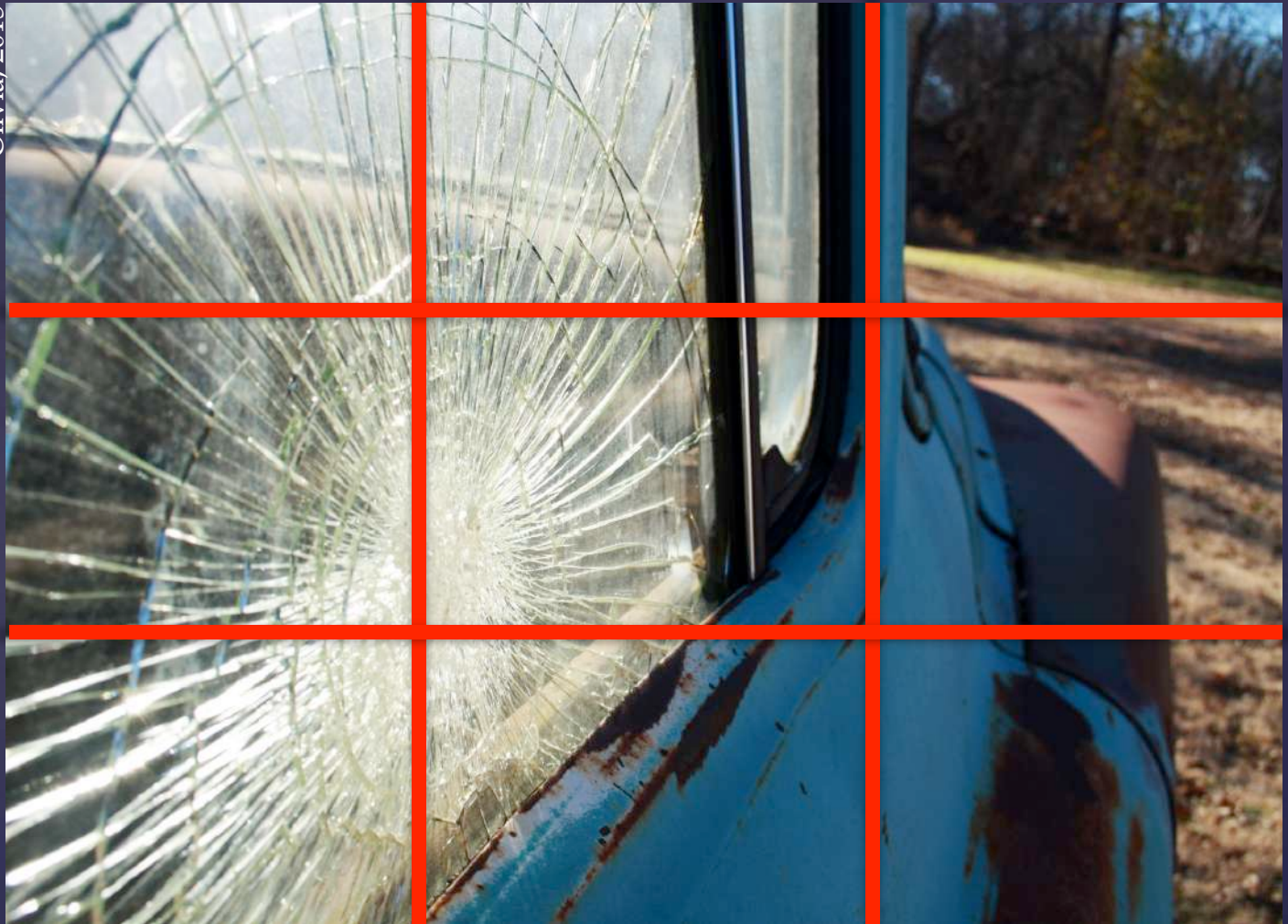
↳ http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photographic_composition_rule_of_thirds.html

Olivia, 2015



Rule of Thirds

- ✂ Splitting your photo into thirds horizontally and vertically to place your subject off center



Rule of Thirds

- ⌘ This often makes the image a bit more interesting. It can also help with balance.

Olivia, 2015



Rule of Thirds

- ⌘ If you have a model, have them face INTO the picture. It gives them space to look and lets the viewer know what they are looking at.



Rule of Thirds

- ⌘ Consider the horizon. Would it be better if it were on a third?



Rule of Thirds

- ⌘ What do you think? It is usually a good idea to place your horizon on a third when you are shooting landscapes.



Needs help! How can you use the rule of thirds here?



Move your subject over to the third. It also helps to NOT cut him off at the rib cage and remove the horizon (or you could place it on a third).



Balance

& [http://photoinf.com/
General/KODAK/
guidelines_for_better
photographic_composi
tion_balance.html](http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photographic_composition_balance.html)

Lewis, 2017



⌘ Using light and dark, complimenting colors, and shapes that even out the “visual weight”

Balance

Lewis, 2017



- ⌘ This image has a good amount of light and dark areas in the image.
- ⌘ It also has green on both sides of the tree trunk

Balance



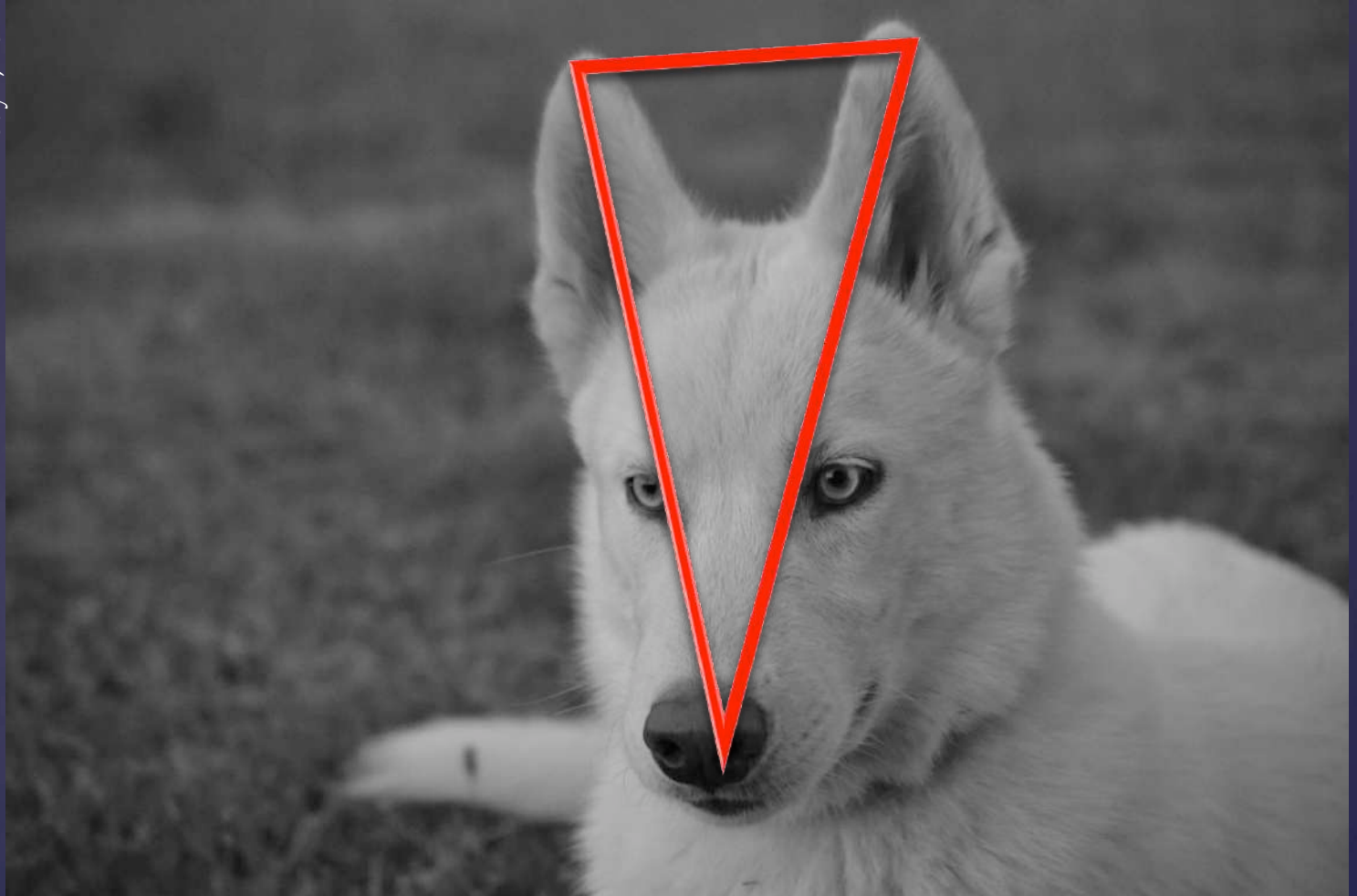
Devyn, 2014



Balance

- ⌘ When looking for shapes, remember that you are using things within the frame to create your shapes. What shape do you see here?

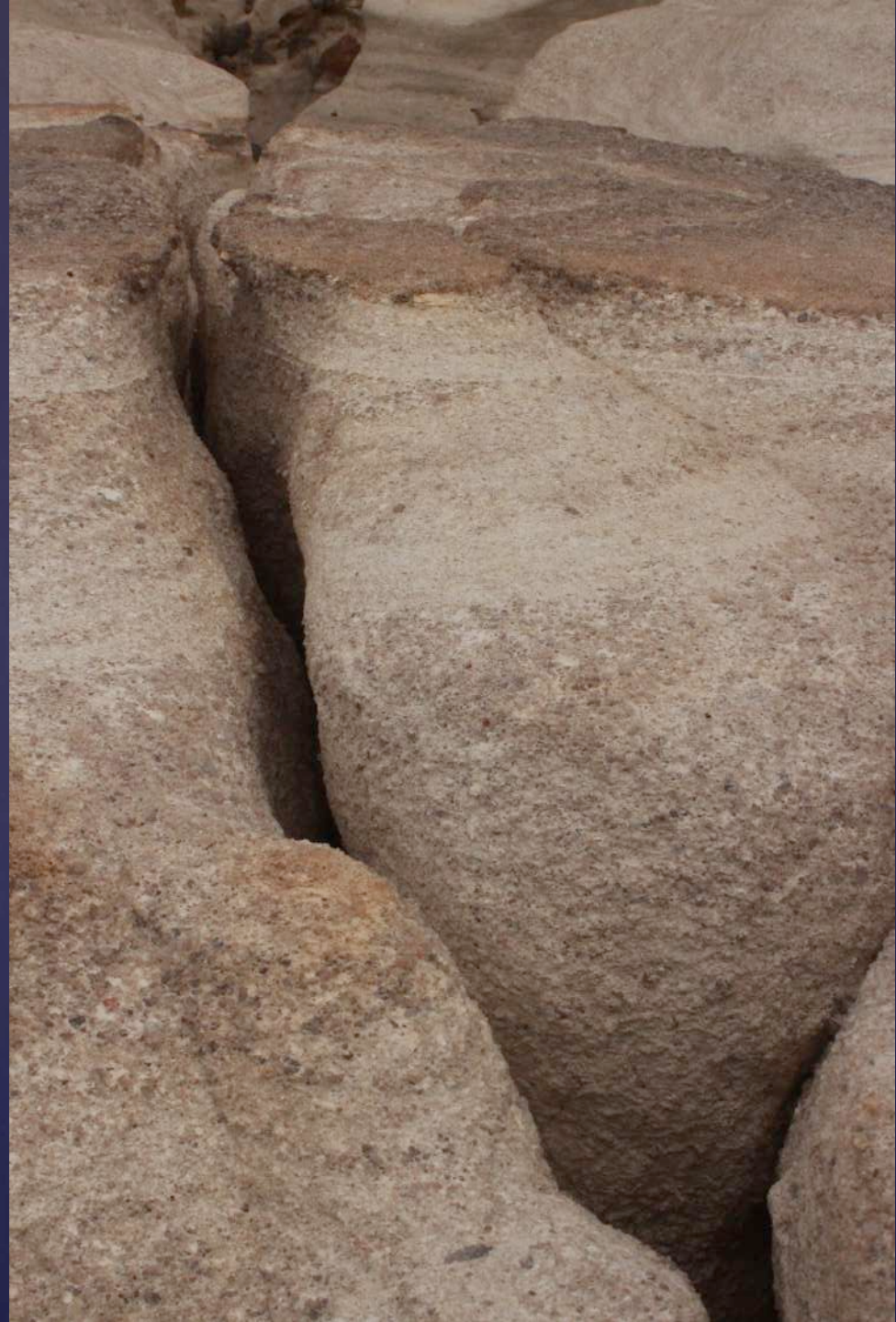
Devyn, 2014



Balance

- ⌘ The triangle is the most dynamic shape to look for
- ⌘ This image also does an excellent job of balancing lights and darks

Needs help!
How could
you balance
this better?



Needs help!
How could
you balance
this better?

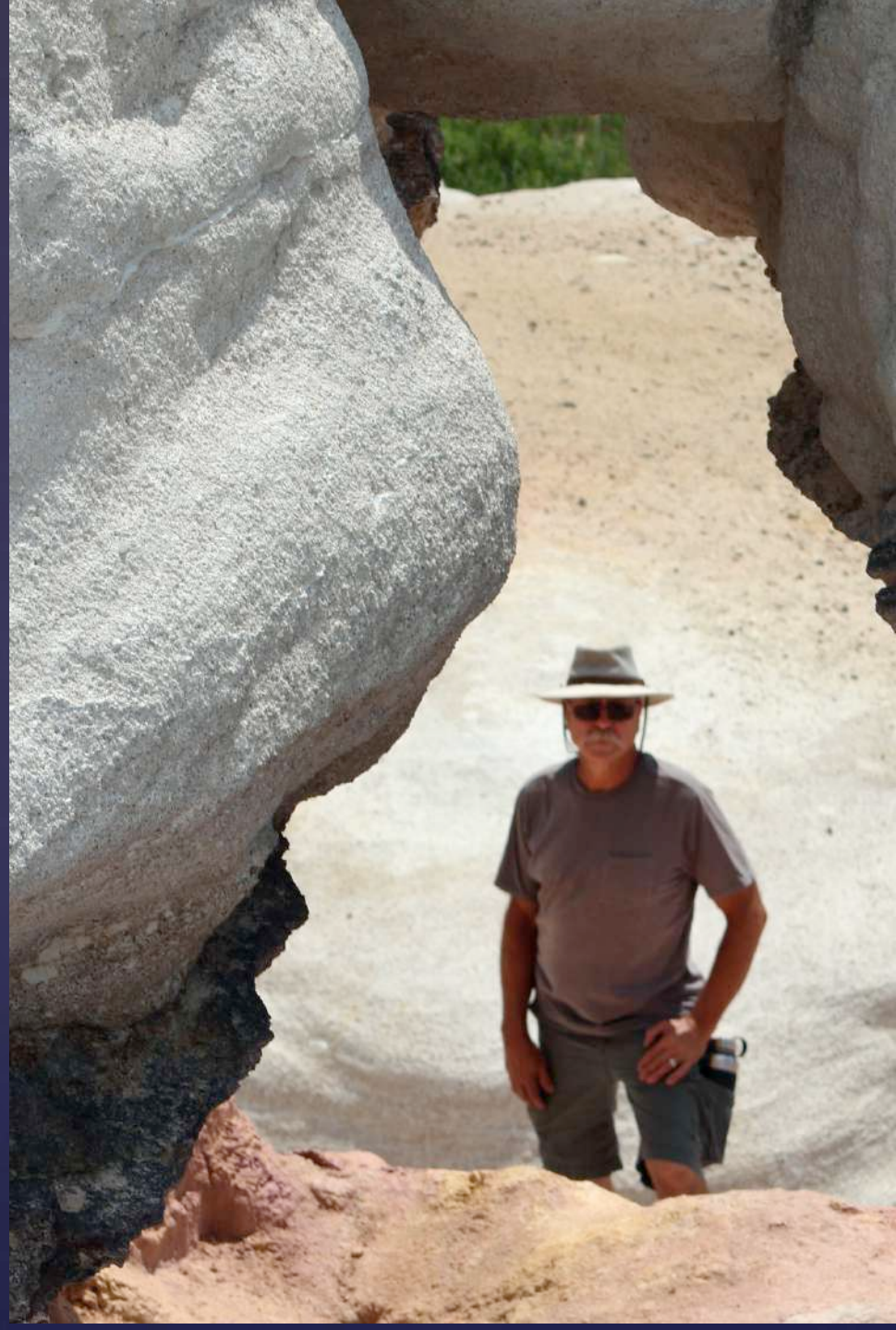
A new angle that
gives us a little of
the horizon (on a
third). The darker
rock, grass, and
sky balances out
the white rock.





& [http://photoinf.com/
General/KODAK/
guidelines_for_better_photo
graphic_composition_frami
ng.html](http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photo_graphic_composition_framing.html)

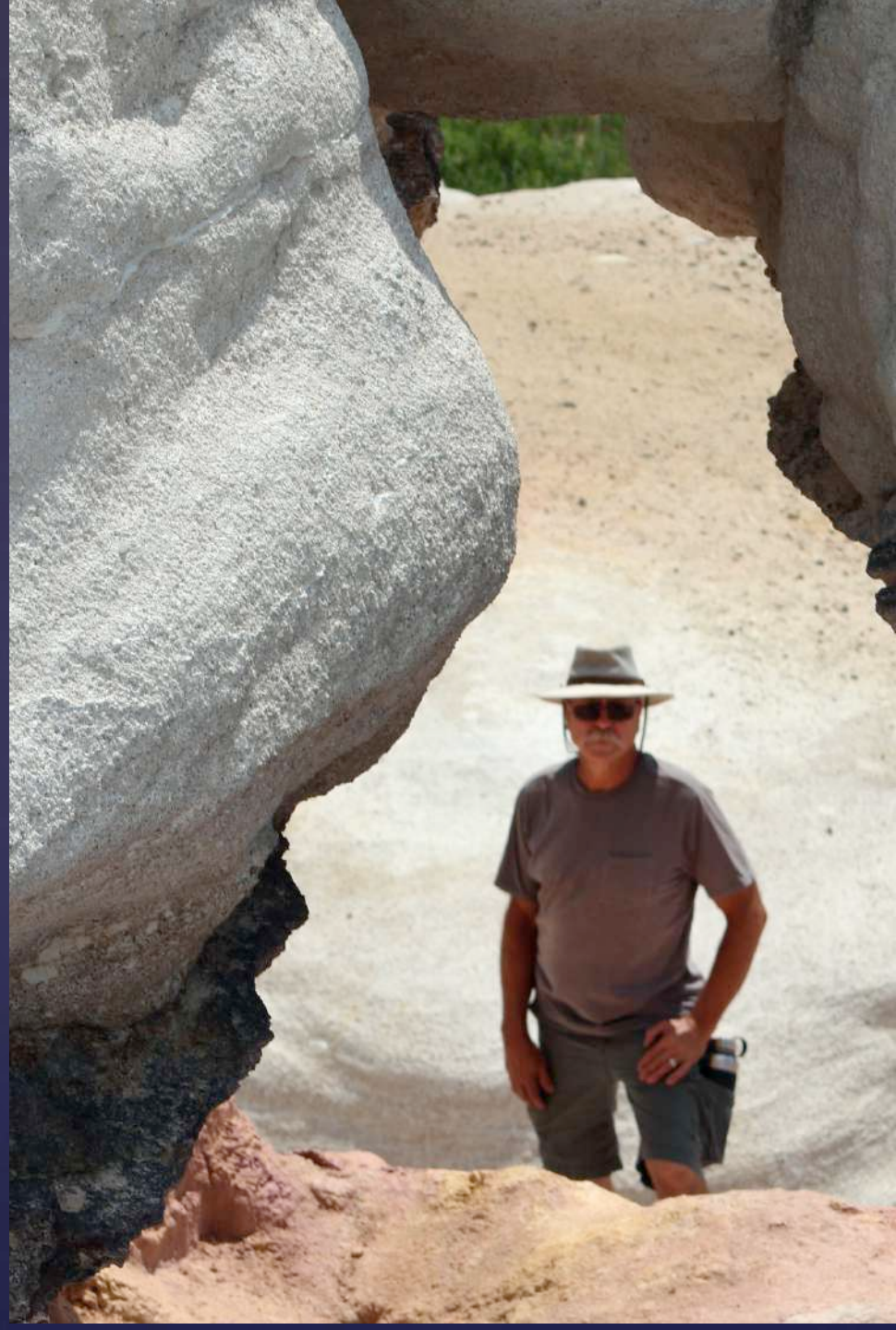
Framing



- ⌘ Use foreground objects to frame your subject
- ⌘ This adds visual interest to the image by showing depth.

Framing

Lewis, 2017



Bithia, 2015



Framing

⌘ You can use anything to make a frame

Needs help!
Could you
create a frame?



Needs help!
Could you
create a frame?

Use the items
around you and
change your
angle to create a
frame!





Lewis, 2017



Avoiding Mergers

& http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photographic_composition_avoiding_mergers.html

Lewis, 2017



Avoiding Mergers

⌘ Sometimes purposeful (bunny ears)

Lewis, 2017



Avoiding Mergers

& Sometimes NOT!



Avoiding Mergers

⌘ Cutting out anything that distracts from the subject



Avoiding Mergers

- ⌘ Uncomplicated backgrounds will help you with this.
- ⌘ Also, no amputations! Be careful about cutting off body parts unnecessarily, this makes them *merge* into the edge.



Avoiding Mergers

- ⌘ There! We've eliminated all the distracting factors (besides all the goofy faces, of course).

Needs help!
Fix this
merger!



Needs help! Fix this merger!

The simplest
answer is to
move over a little
so that you can
fit both subjects
in the frame



Needs help!
Fix this
merger!

Another option
would be to move
your subjects
together. Always
more than one
solution!





& So show us what you've got!

Go out and take pictures!

& Take one shot per rule

& You can choose any subject

& Refer to the Photo Assignment
page for more details

& HAVE FUN!

Photo Assignment 2

⌘ [http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/
guidelines_for_better_photographic_compositi
on.html](http://photoinf.com/General/KODAK/guidelines_for_better_photographic_composition.html)

Resources