

Exercise 3: Photographic Composition

(25 Points)

Name: _____

Objective:

This exercise will allow you practice the guidelines for photographic composition, and think about how to compose your subject.

Directions:

1. Work with a partner.
2. Shoot one image for each number and description.
3. Shoot in camera RAW.
4. Use your metered exposure according to your camera (N). When possible, meter off a gray card.
 - Make sure you have a good exposure for each shot that shows detail in highlights and shadows. Adjust as necessary.
5. Shoot a white balance shot for each new lighting situation.
6. In class, download images.
7. In Bridge, use Batch Rename to label the images with a description from this sheet. Use your last name on all the images.
 - For example "mtruitt_diagonal_lines_1.nef"
8. Turn in a folder with all your files into the class Dropbox on the server.
 - Folder Name: For example "Truitt_E3_Composition"

Section A: Compose A Portrait Of Your Partner With The Following

1. **Symmetrical** balance head and torso portrait, parallel to the camera "Dead Pan"
 - like a mirror image...both sides are very similar

Now look at your partner again, and decide on a focal point. It could be their eyes, face, a feature in their clothing, an item they have with them, etc. Concentrate on creating a visual emphasis on that focal point through the following shots:

2. **Asymmetrical** balance, **Fill The Frame**, with the focal point using the **Rule of Thirds**
3. Use strong **Diagonal lines** and / or **Leading Lines** that point towards the focal point.
 - Could be their limbs, clothing, items in the location, background, etc.
4. **Simplify the scene.** Try and take the portrait with a minimum of visual distractions while maintaining the focal point.

...continued on back

Section B: Vantage Point & Close-ups

Note: Your minimum focusing distance is about 24" on a "kit" lens.

5. **Close-Up:** Get close to an object. Try to only include the minimal amount of information necessary to describe that object.
6. **Abstract:** Pick another object. Get close-up and try to take an image that is ambiguous (or abstract) while maintaining focus. It should be hard to figure out what the object is.

Section C: Photograph A Scene With Different Points of View

Pick a scene with a foreground, middle ground, and background. In other words, you should have 3 distinctive subjects or objects in the scene. The 3 subjects should be staggered going back into space (depth). Decide which subject will be your focal point. Your goal is to try and find the most interesting point of view for this scene. Keep the same scene for all shots below.

Use apertures f-8 through f-22 if possible.

7. **POV1:** Photograph the scene from standing eye level.
8. **POV2:** Photograph the scene from the ground up.
9. **POV3:** Photograph the scene from the side (either right or left)
10. **POV4:** Try to find a way to look down on the scene. If you can't photograph the whole scene, just photograph a portion of it.
11. **POV5:** Try and find a "S" curve within the scene.
12. **POV6:** Create a sense of depth within the image.
 - Think about horizon line, paths, etc.