

Elements of Photography

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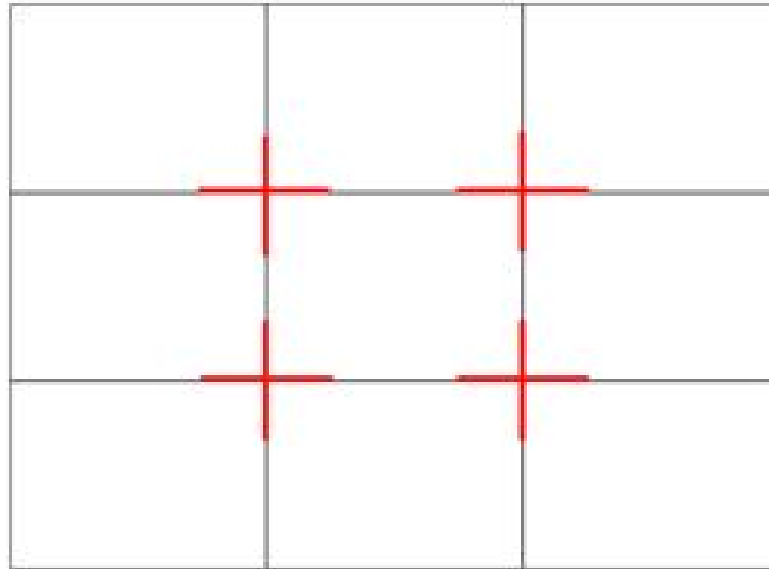
Our Group Objectives

For the Passion Project, our group wanted to explore different ways professional photographers are able to use their skills to get the best out of photography. We decided to research these different skills and go to a scenic area (the beach) to apply these skills to basic photography.

All of the photos ahead were taken by our group. The subject we used for our first photo is Anayeli Colin.

Rule of Thirds: Basic Principle

The basic principle behind the rule of thirds is to imagine breaking an image down into thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so that there are 9 parts, as shown.



Rule of Thirds: Example

In this example of the Rule of thirds, our subject is standing in the left most region of the 9 sections.



Focal Point: Basic Principle

- In photography, a focal point is a main point of focus within the composition of the photo.
- A focal point can be virtually anything standing out the most in a picture, ranging from a person, to a building, to a mountain, to a flower etc.
- Whatever your focal point is, it should be able draw the viewer's attention more than any other component of the photo.

Focal Point: Example

Our example of Focal point represents the lifeguard tower as the main point of concentration while the rest of the landscape is minimal as far as surrounding objects or people.



Simplicity: Basic Principles

- There are many ways to achieve simplicity in a photograph.
- The most common, and easiest form is to place the subject against a neutral background like a backdrop or the sky.
- Another method is to have the background compliment the subject, such as sand complimenting a seashell.

Simplicity: Example

For our example of simplicity, we didn't choose a solid background, but rather, a background that compliments the subject, a simple flower. The background isn't distracting, but it highlights the subject in a way that makes it obvious.



Another Example

In our second example of simplicity, the subject is the palm tree and the background is solid instead of a more complicated background that still highlights the subject.



Leading Lines: Basic Principles

- Leading lines are lines within your photo that lead the viewer's eye to another point in the image, or out of the image.
- Anything with pronounced lines in a photo could be considered leading lines.
- This could include fences, bridges, horizons, railroads, etc.

Leading Lines: Example

In the case of our example, the prominent leading lines are the two curbs, the road, and the bushes. This image leads the viewer's eye to the end of the photo, or the rightmost side.



Another Example:

In our second example, the leading lines are shown as the horizon line and the line where the sand meets the water.

