

Compositional Elements

√ *Find a Clear Center of Interest*

Find something that captures your eye. Try to avoid distracting objects or shadows.

√ *Fill the Frame*

Robert Capa, the World War II photojournalist said it best, when he said, "If you're pictures are not good enough, they you're probably not close enough." Get the subject into the frame so there is no doubt what the photo is all about.

√ *Present a Clear Message*

Try to avoid anything that would distract people from your main subject. Focus on the subject. Then before you press the shutter, check the edges of the frame for anything that would distract the viewer.

√ *Compose Boldly*

Have fun with your subject. Look for repetition or patterns. Keep your eye out for diagonals, which are always interesting. Look out for contrasting colors and shapes.

√ *Create Depth*

Use the aperture to create depth. Make objects in front and behind your subject a little out of focus. This will provide the effect that isolates the subject from the background. This focuses attention on the subject.

√ *Light and Dark*

Basically, light tones advance while dark tones retreat. Most people look at the lighter portions of a photograph first.

√ *Shapes*

Vertical and horizontal are bad, diagonals are good.

Diagonal images are visually more interesting that vertical and horizontal.

√ *Framing*

This is the use of elements in the foreground to frame the object in focus.

Other points to consider when composing an image:

√ Lines

√ Vertical lines emphasize power, strength, and height. [L] [SEP]

√ Horizontal lines express stability and width. [L] [SEP]

√ Diagonal lines express dynamic energy. [L] [SEP]

√ Curving lines express sensuality.

√ Viewpoint

The angle the camera is placed when composing the image. This may be a low angle, with the camera placed on the floor, or at a higher viewpoint looking down towards the subject. This can create tension and add a sense of scale or distortion to a composition.