



Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding and utilizing visual weight and flow to create balanced and dynamic photographs. By exploring compositional techniques, students will learn how to guide the viewer's eye through their images, enhancing visual storytelling.

Learning Objectives

- Identify elements of visual weight and flow in various compositions.
- Apply techniques for balancing visual weight using subjects, negative space, and color.
- Evaluate and refine compositions for improved visual impact.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

Finding Your Compositional Balance	How To Improve Your Photography Composition	Composition In Photography
Mastering Photography Composition Rules		

Before You Shoot

- Select a location with varied subjects and potential negative space.
- Gather a variety of props or subjects that can create visual interest.
- Prepare your camera and ensure it is set to Aperture Priority or Shutter Priority mode.
- Set your ISO to 200 for optimal image quality.
- Review examples of balanced compositions to inspire your shooting approach.

Assignment Tasks

1. Find a scene with multiple subjects and photograph it using Aperture Priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed. Focus on balancing the visual weight of the subjects within the frame.
2. Capture a landscape scene utilizing negative space to create a sense of balance. Use Aperture Priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed to ensure depth of field.
3. In a still life setup, arrange objects of varying sizes and colors. Use Shutter Priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed to freeze motion if any elements are moving.
4. Photograph a moving subject (like a person or animal) while using Shutter Priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed. Pay attention to how the placement of the subject affects visual flow.
5. Create a portrait using Aperture Priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed. Focus on the subject's eyes while managing the background to maintain visual balance.
6. Take a series of three images of the same scene with different compositions. Adjust the placement of your subjects each time to explore how visual weight changes. Use Aperture Priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a diptych or triptych using images that reflect contrasting visual weights but a cohesive flow.
- Experiment with long exposure photography using Shutter Priority mode to create a sense of motion in a still environment.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do explore different angles and viewpoints to find the most balanced composition.
- ✓ Do utilize negative space thoughtfully to enhance the focal point of your photograph.
- ✓ Do consider the color harmony in your compositions to balance visual weight.
- ✓ Do take time to analyze your compositions after shooting for potential adjustments.
- ✓ Do practice using both Aperture and Shutter Priority modes to understand their effects on visual weight.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't overcrowd your frame with too many subjects, which can disrupt visual flow.
- ✗ Don't ignore the edges of your frame; ensure nothing awkwardly cuts off.
- ✗ Don't settle for the first composition; take multiple shots from different angles.
- ✗ Don't use distracting backgrounds that can detract from the main subject's visual weight.
- ✗ Don't forget to check your camera settings before each shoot to ensure they align with your creative goals.

Reflection Questions

- How did the use of negative space influence the balance in your photographs?
- In what ways did you manipulate visual weight to guide the viewer's eye?
- What challenges did you encounter when trying to achieve balance in your compositions?
- How did different subjects affect the overall flow and impact of your images?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use Aperture Priority mode to control depth of field and emphasize your subject.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to see how they affect visual weight.
- Pay attention to light and shadow to enhance the feeling of weight in your images.
- Incorporate negative space strategically to create balance within the frame.
- Adjust your shooting angle to find the most effective composition.

Creative:

- Use contrasting colors to create a dynamic flow in your compositions.
- Incorporate leading lines that guide the viewer's eye towards the subject.
- Explore different arrangements of subjects to understand their visual weight.
- Create a series of images that showcase different aspects of visual balance.
- Experiment with motion (using Shutter Priority) to add energy and flow to your photos.