



Eyes and Mind: The Basics of Photographic Composition

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Photography Series

- Part 1: Eyes and Mind (Composition)
- Part 2: Technique (Exposure)
- Part 3: Post Production

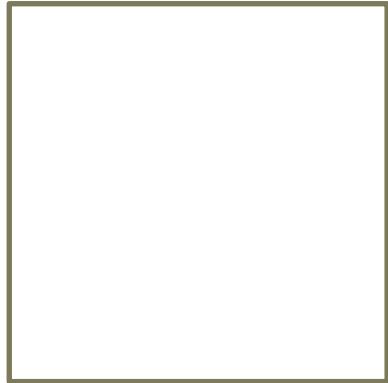
Elements of Design

- Line
- Shape
- Form
- Texture
- Pattern
- Color

Elements: Line

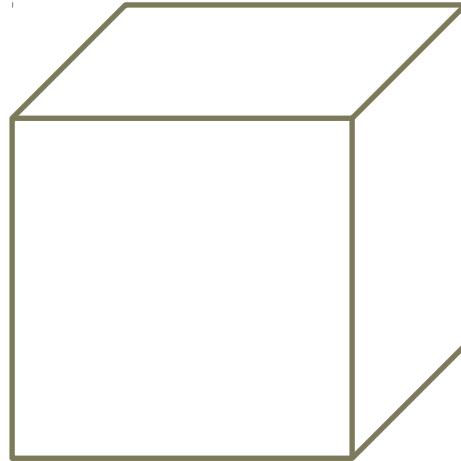
- A straight or curved continuous extent of length without breadth.
- Most basic, but perhaps most powerful element
- Evoke various senses and feelings
- Directs your eyes to move at a specific direction across an image.

Elements: Shape



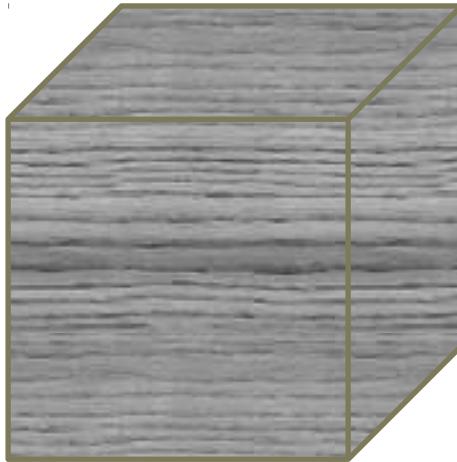
- An outline of an object
- An arrangement of lines
- Principal element of visually identifying a subject

Elements: Form



- Provides depth and perspective on a shape
- Shape = 2D ; Form = 3D

Elements: Texture



- Tactile quality of a surface
- Associated with our sense of feel
- Capable of evoking strong feelings

Elements: Pattern



- Evokes a feeling of stability and predictability
- An arrangement of shapes or forms that can be considered as organized or consistent

Elements: Color



- Quality of an object or substance with respect to light reflected by the object
- First thing a viewer notices in an image
- Elicit or suggest what may as well be the widest variety of feelings among all other elements

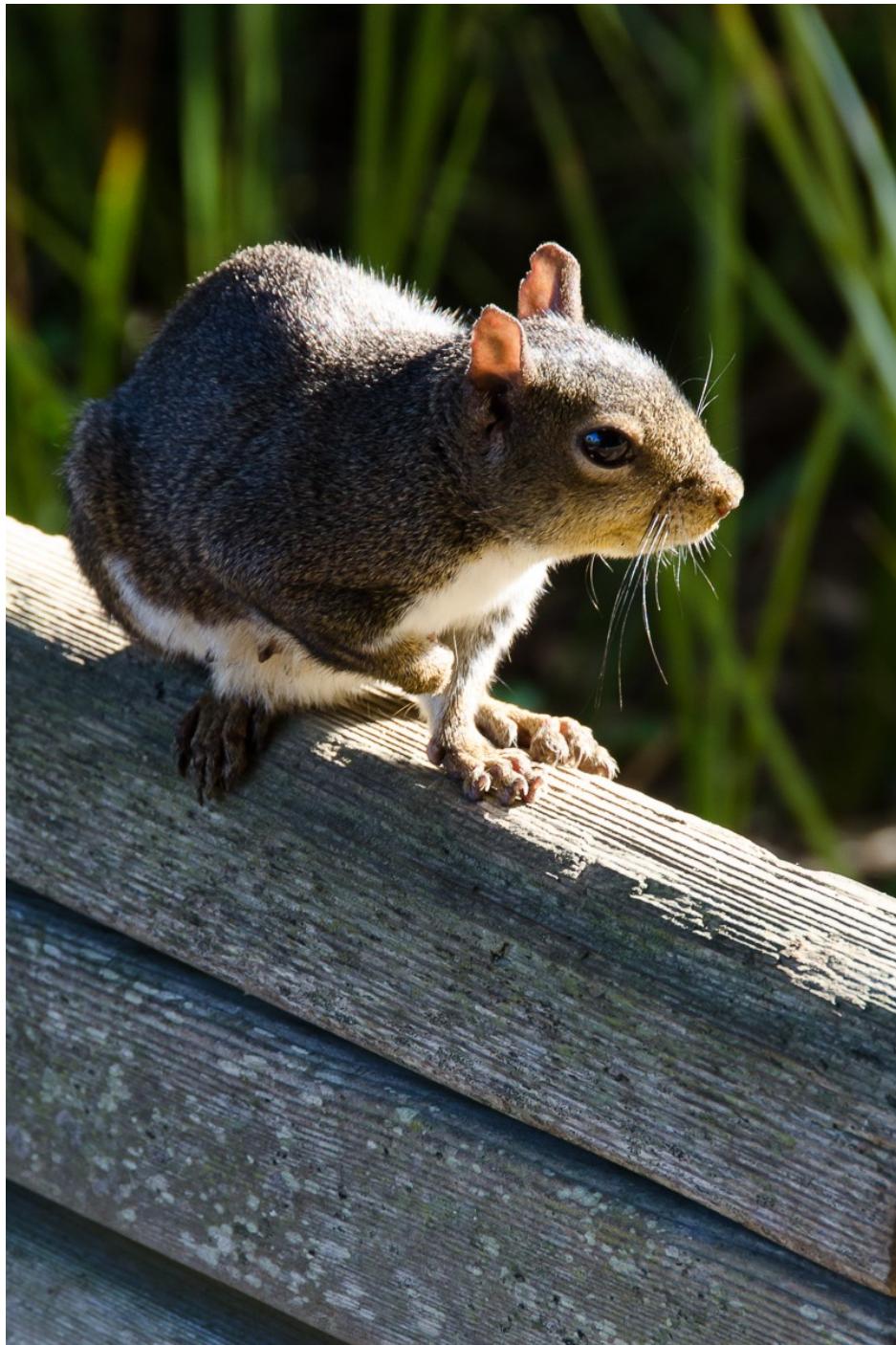
Elements of Design



Elements of Design



Elements of Design



Elements of Design



Principles of Design

- Harmony
- Balance
- Contrast
- Emphasis
- Unity

Principles: Harmony

- Relationship between different elements
- The quality of forming a pleasing and consistent whole.

Principles: Balance

- A situation in which different elements are equal or in the correct proportions.

Principles: Contrast

- Differences in colour, tone, or shape that contribute to the visual effect of a design or image.
- Provides drama or even conflict in a frame.

Principles: Emphasis

- Special importance, value, or prominence given to something
- Assignment of an object as a central point of interest

Principles: Unity

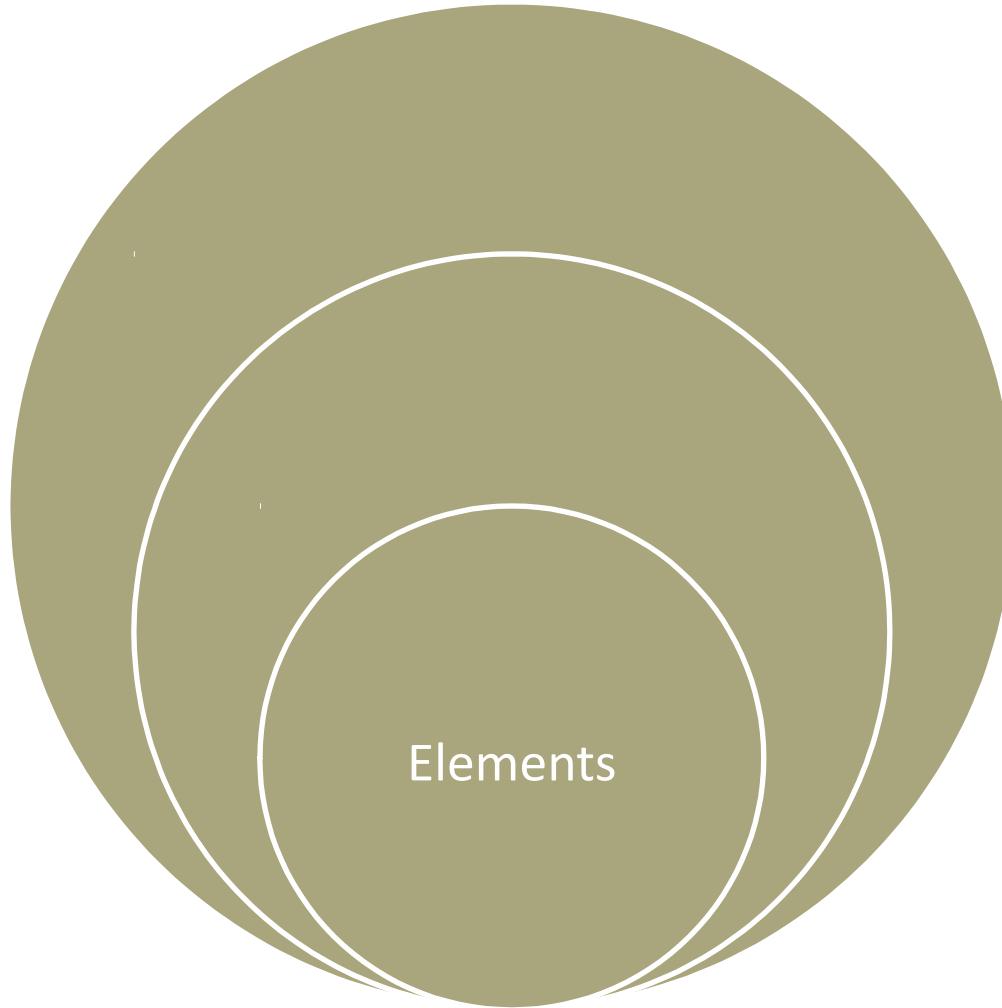
- The quality or state of being one.
- Combining of parts into a complex, but harmonious whole.

Photographic Composition

- Alphabet = design elements
- Grammar and syntax = design principles
- Message or story = composition



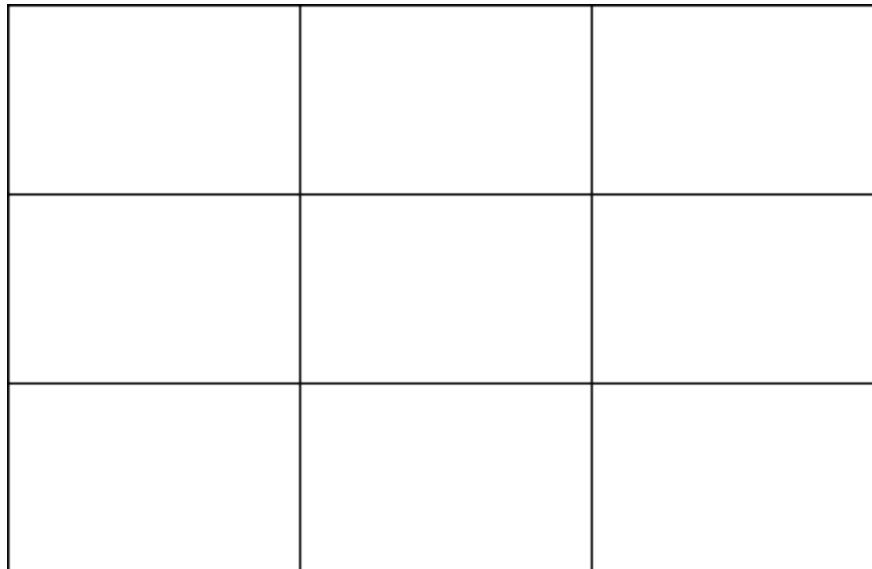
Photographic Composition



Photographic Composition

- The way in which a whole or mixture is made up.
- Not as a strict set of rules, but a guide for identifying a scene's general structure

Composition: Rule of Thirds

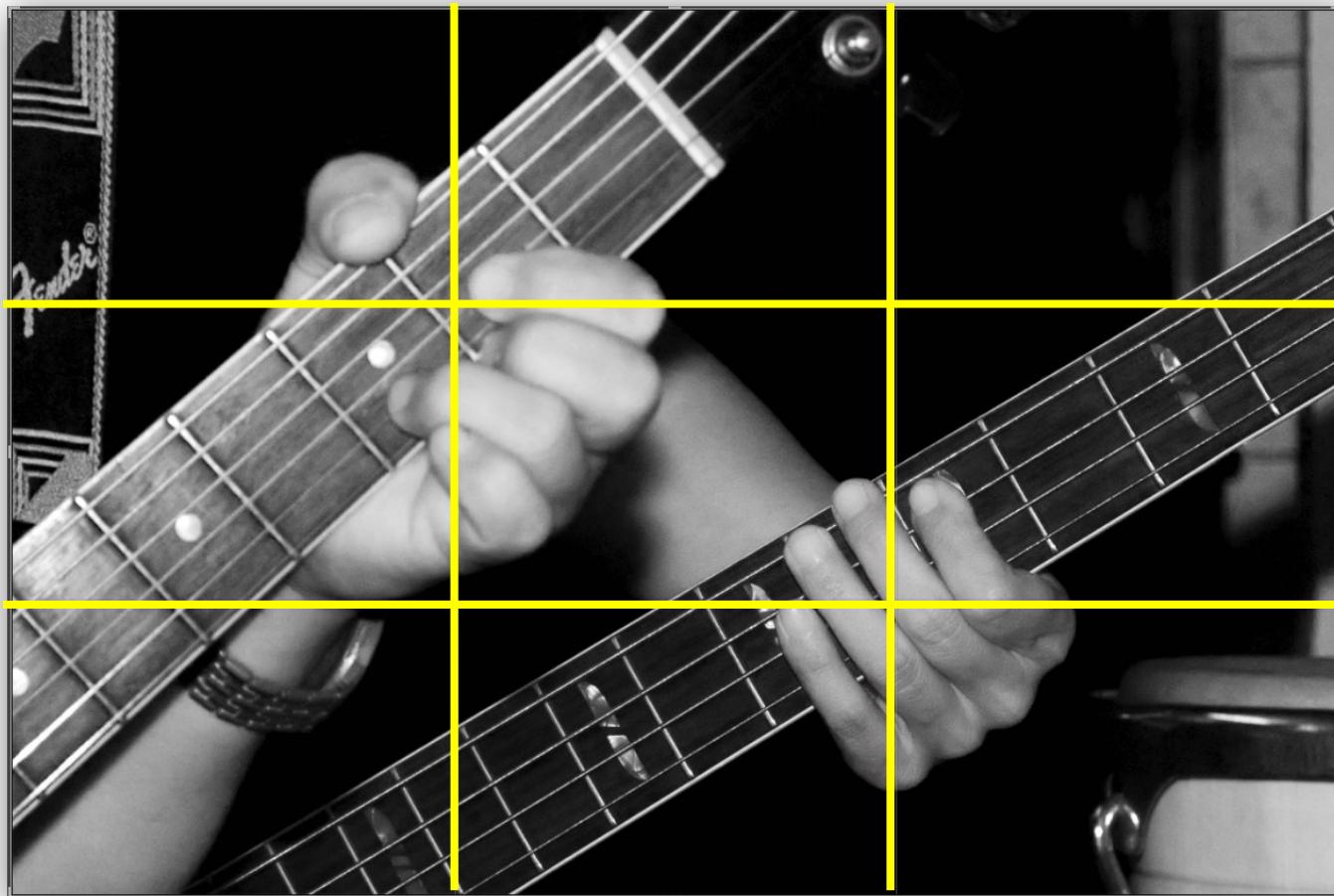


- Placement of a subject along the lines of an equally divided 3x3 grid over a frame.

Composition: Rule of Thirds



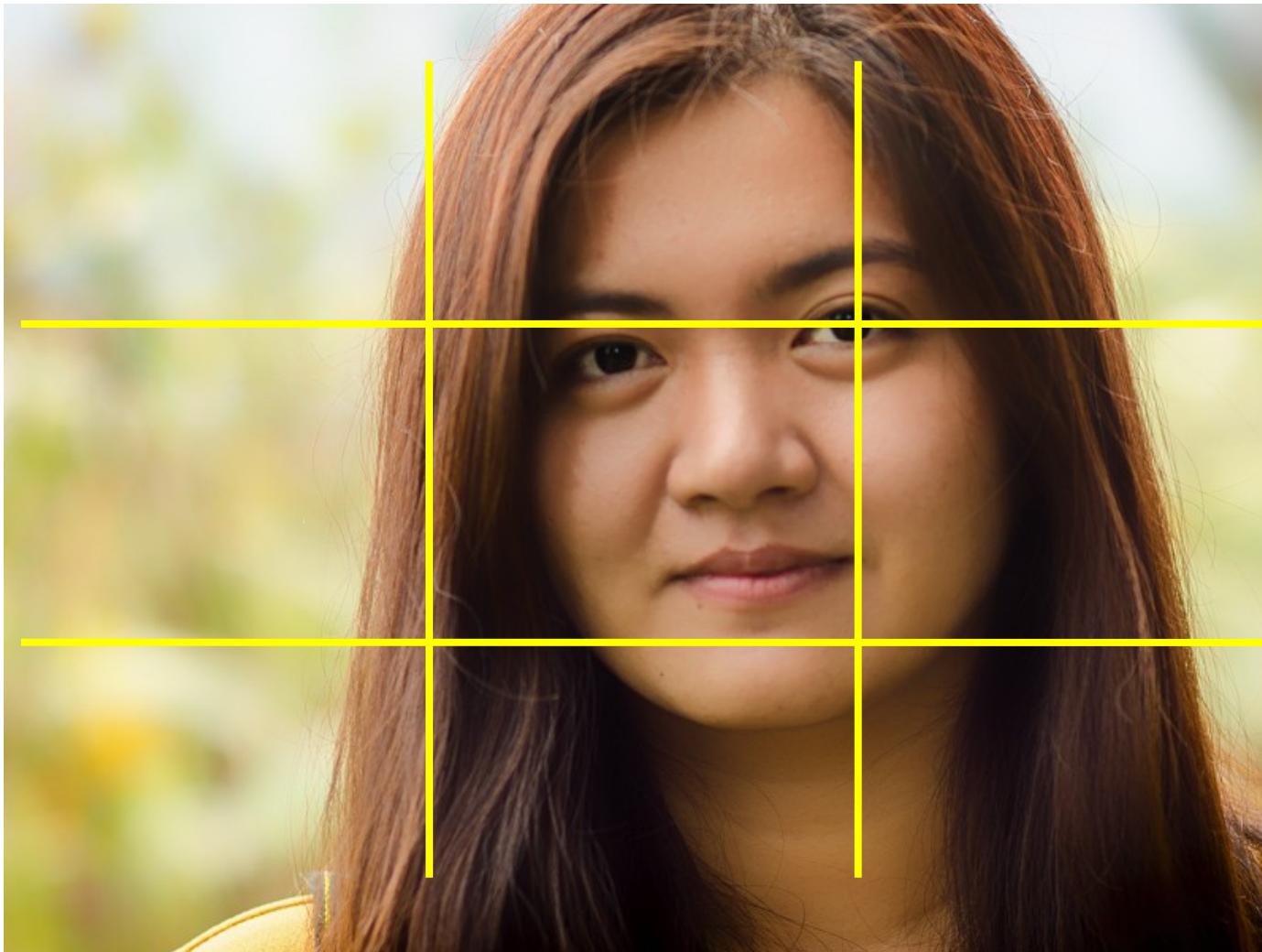
Composition: Rule of Thirds



Composition: Rule of Thirds



Composition: Rule of Thirds



Composition: Radial

- Radial composition is achieved when you have elements spread out from the center of a frame.



Composition: Radial



Composition: Leading Lines

- Placement of subjects along a line, which can either be explicit or implicit.
- Effective tool in dictating how viewers move their eyes across a picture



Composition: Leading Lines



Composition: Leading Lines



Composition: Overlapping

- Have subjects partially cover each other.
- Can be achieved by:
 - having at least two elements of different distances from the photographer's perspective and having one being in front of the other
 - having multiple elements of different lateral positions looking like they are in contact, implying a degree of togetherness.

Composition: Overlapping



Composition: Tall Crop

- Further narrowing of a frame with vertical orientation
- Removes unwanted elements on the left and/or right side of the frame
- Provides greater emphasis on the subject.



Composition:

Tall Crop



Composition:

Tall Crop



Composition: Letterbox

- Further narrowing of a frame with horizontal orientation
- Removes unwanted elements on the upper and/or lower side of the frame
- Provides greater emphasis on the subject.



Composition: Letterbox



Composition: Letterbox



Composition: Symmetry

- The quality of being made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis

Composition: Symmetry



Composition:

Symmetry



Composition: Frame Within a Frame

- Use of an element or elements in the foreground or background as additional frames for a subject.
- Adds depth, perspective and emphasis on a subject.



Composition: Frame Within a Frame



Composition: Rhythmic Elements

- Deliberate and purposeful repetitions of any design element



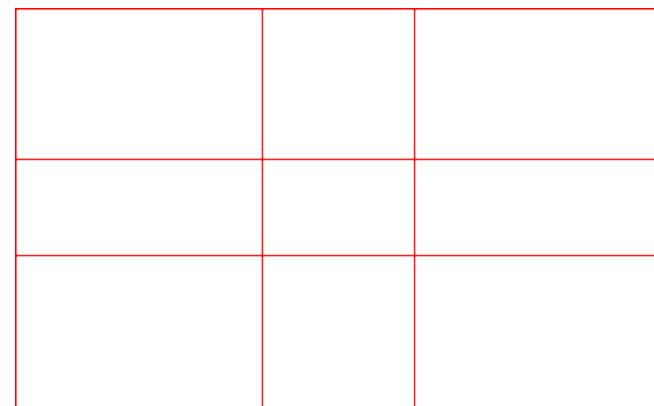
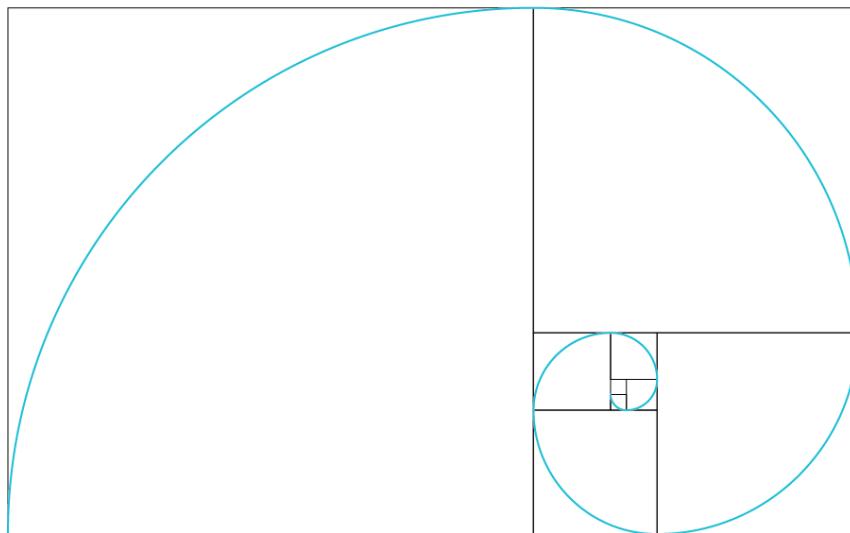
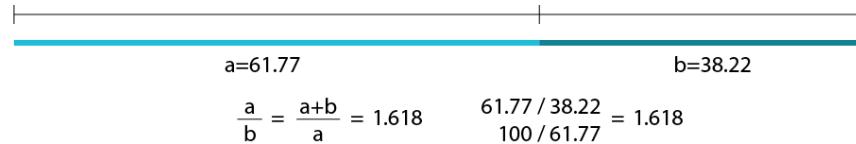
Composition: Rhythm



Composition



Composition: Golden Ratio

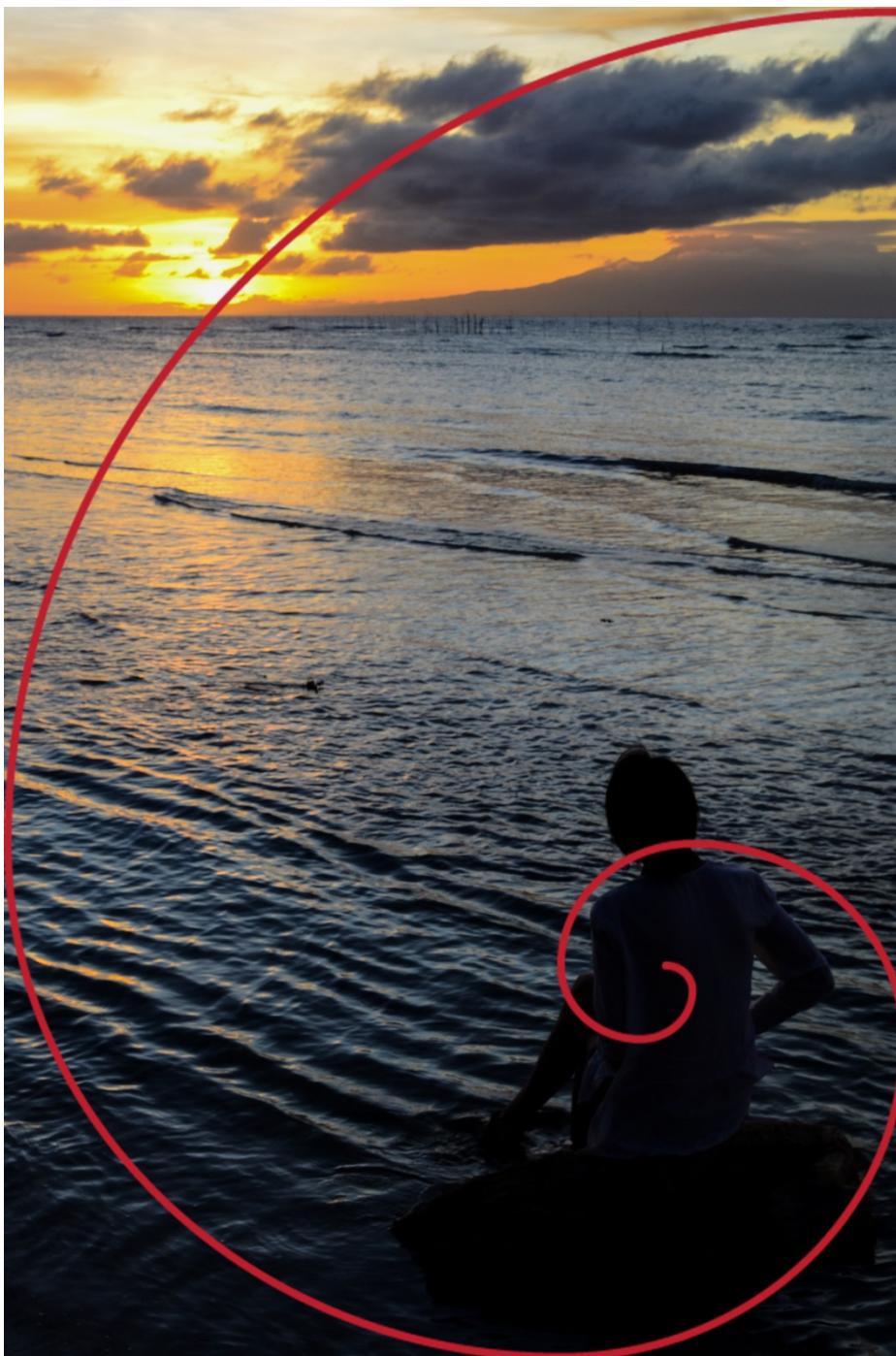


- Placement of subject and elements of interest along the lines of a Phi grid or the Fibonacci Spiral, as with the rule of thirds
- 1:0.618:1 grid ratio as opposed to the 1:1:1 ratio of the rule of thirds

Composition: Golden Ratio



Composition: Golden Ratio



Composition: Fill the Frame

- Maximizing the space within the dimensions of a picture.



Composition: Fill the Frame



Composition: Fill the Frame



Composition:



Composition:



Composition:



Composition:



Composition:



Questions, Anyone?

- Composition
- Gear
- Open Critique
- Exposure “preview”

Thank you!

- Multimedia Studies 173 Manual
 - <http://www.allibrero.com/mms173>