

10



SELF-LEARNING PACKAGE IN

ICT 10

Quarter 1 | Week 1

Composition and key elements of photography

Learning Competency:

Identify the composition and key elements of photography.

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Ready to Launch!

Photography is the art of capturing light with a camera, usually via a digital sensor or film, to create an image. A communication that requires a sender (photographer), the message (picture) and the receiver (viewer).

Good composition is a key element of good photographs. What is composition in photography? Composition in photography can be defined as positioning the objects in the frame in such a way that the viewer's eye is automatically drawn to the most interesting or significant area of the capture.

In this lesson, you'll understand the concept of composition and its elements in photography.



Aim at the Target!

At the end of this module you are expected to:

1. Identify the different elements of composition in photography.



Try This!

Activity 1. Unscramble the following words and write your answer on the space provided.

WORD	CLUE	ANSWER
TSOH	The specific way the camera is lined up and or moved.	
MCRAAE	Device for recording an image of an	
EGDNOFUNRO	Part of a photograph, painting, or scene that's farthest away from you.	
NCOOIMPTISO	Describes placement of relative objects and elements in a work of art	
YHHPPOOAGRT	It is the art, application and practice of creating durable images by recording light, either electronically by means of an image sensor	



Keep This in Mind!

Activity 2. Study the picture below and answer the questions below:



Picture A



Picture B

Analysis.

1. Explain how each picture is being shot?
2. What do you think the photographer is trying to convey to the viewer with the different pictures?

Abstraction and Generalization

What is Composition in Photography?

- Composition in photography simply means arranging elements within it in a way that suits the core idea or goal of your work best.
- Composition is a way of guiding the viewer's eye towards the most important elements of your work, sometimes – in a very specific order.
- They're not 'rules' – just things to consider when setting up a shot.

Elements of Composition in Photography:

In photography, the term subject is simply the object (or person or critter) that is shown in the image. But a single photograph can show several things — which one is the subject? The subject is the focus on the image, both literally as the sharpest point in the photograph and in a more figurative sense.

1. Points

- The simplest element of composition is a point. A point is just a small area of interest in a photo, or the intersection between areas of interest.

- Stars in the sky in a photograph are “points,” and so is an out-of-focus light in the background. The same is true of the spot where two mountains meet one another, creating an intersection that pulls at the viewer’s eye.
- Points matter in photography because they are one of the most fundamental ways to draw our attention – to add interest to a particular area.



In this photo, what element draws your eye the most? The answer should be immediately clear:

it is, of course, the peak of the sand dune – the point. It has a gravity to it. Our eyes follow the lines of the slope and end up at the same spot.

If you’ve internalized that points can draw a viewer’s eye and attract attention, you likely have a good idea of why they are so important in photography; they help give a photo structure.

2. Lines

- Photographically, anything that connects two parts of a photo or stretches across your composition is a line. For example, a curved road or a jagged mountain ridge or even the fuzzy, lightly defined edge of a cloud is usually a line.
- Sometimes, lines in a photo are imaginary, but they’re still there. Imagine a portrait of a child looking at a toy truck. The space between the child and truck might be “empty,” but the viewer knows it is important anyway. There’s a line – a connection between the two elements of the photo that makes each one more impactful.
- Diagonal, horizontal, vertical and converging lines all impact images differently and should be spotted while framing a shot and then utilized to strengthen it. They should reflect your own style and personality. Remember photography is as much about you as the photo at hand.



3. Shapes

- Shapes can be anything, from the crescent moon to the shape of a smiling face. Each variety of shape has its own emotional impact on a photo, and it’s impossible to generalize. A circle might be peaceful, a heart evocative, a triangle dynamic, and so on – but the only thing to be said about every shape is that they have the power to attract our attention.
- Sometimes, shapes are just the object itself. If you’re photographing the sun, it makes a circular shape.



4. Texture

- The texture of an object plays an important role in determining its emotional impact, as well as the amount of attention it draws.
- Images a two dimensional thing yet with the clever use of 'texture' they can come alive and become almost three dimensional. Texture particularly comes into play when light hits objects at interesting angles.
- Areas with more texture tend to draw extra attention. Sometimes, too much texture in "unimportant" areas of a photo can be distracting, making the overall photo appear too complex. In other cases, texture gives your subject a crucial sense of dimension, such as filling out the shape of a mountain landscape.



5. Color

- Color makes a big difference to the composition of a photo, as well the mood. Each color brings its own emotions to photography. The colors in an image and how they are arranged can make or break a shot.
- **Bright colors** can add vibrancy, energy and interest, however in the wrong position they can also distract viewers of an image from points.
- **Warm colors** are red, orange, and yellow. They are active, jumping to the front of an image and conveying more movement and excitement.
- **Cool colors** are green, blue and violet. These are calmer colors, with a bit more gentleness to their nature.
- When you're composing your photos, recognize the colors contained within, and try to use their strengths to your advantage. Pairing a warm color with a cool color creates an interesting sense of contrast, leading to an eye-catching image. Photos with just one or two dominant colors present a very unified message – a message that can be highly successful if created with care.



6. Tone

- Tone can refer to hues and intensity of color, it also relates to the brightness and darkness of an image, as well as its contrast.
- Brighter regions of a photo attract the eye. So do those with high contrast – both low-level contrast (sharpness) and broader juxtapositions of light and dark.
- At a broader level, the tones of a photograph also change its overall emotions. Photographs which are **darker** tend to obscure more of your subject, giving it a mysterious, intense, and even refined appearance. **Brighter** photographs



7. Distance

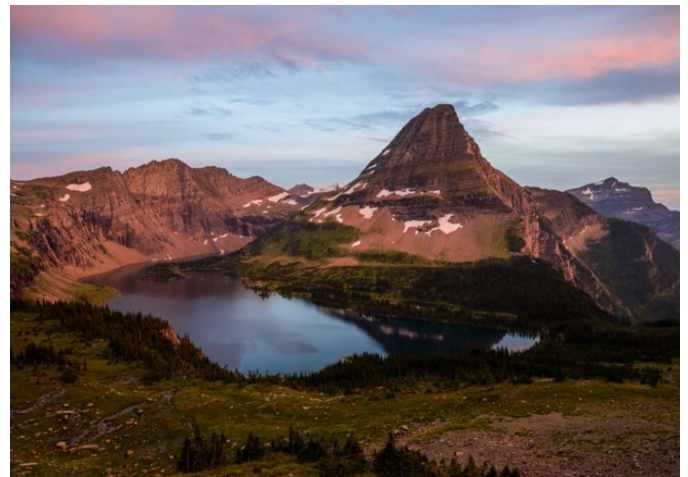
- The simplest relationship between elements of composition is the distance between them.
- Distance matters for a few different reasons. If some of your subjects are too close together – or if one subject crosses another – the results can be distracting. Try to move around a bit so that every important part of a photo has its own “breathing space.”



The composition in the photo above is, roughly, a pentagon – the result of the sun and different points on the mountains being the right distance away from one another:

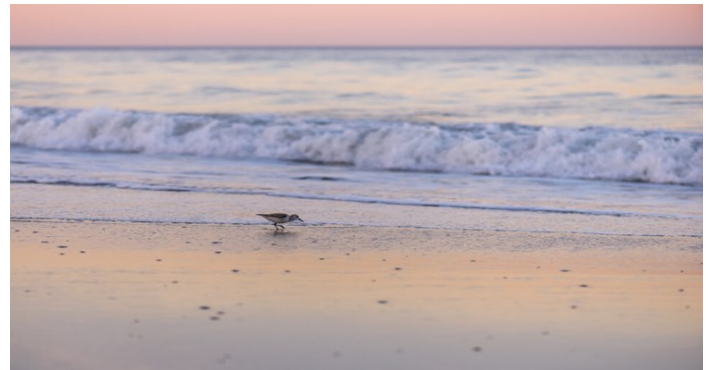
8. Balance

- Balance, related closely to the concept of visual weight. Visual weight is the amount of attention each object in your photo attracts. Every part of your photo has some amount of visual weight to it.
- Along with that, bright areas, sharp areas, regions of high contrast, vivid colors, unusual objects, and interesting textures also attract attention.
- Balance is about the arrangement of visual weight in a photo. A balanced photo has similar levels of visual weight between the left and right halves; an imbalanced photo has more weight on one side or the other.



9. Space (Positive and Negative)

- Positive space is any part of the photo that attracts attention. Areas with significant visual weight are usually positive space.
- Negative space is the “filler” between regions of positive space. It doesn’t necessarily fade into the background like cool colors tend to do, but it isn’t the portion of the photo that attracts the most attention.
- **Photos with high amounts of positive space feel crowded, while photos with high amounts of negative space feel empty.** Neither of these sounds like a particularly good emotion, but both can be very powerful in a photo.
- The picture above is a balanced composition, where the mountain and the lake have similar levels of visual weight, and both are equidistant from the center of the image.



10. Patterns

- In photography, patterns are everywhere. This isn’t just something small like a texture that repeats itself throughout the photo, but really in any repeating element at all. Even the reflection of a mountain in a pool of water is a pattern – one which should not be underestimated, since it ties the photo together.

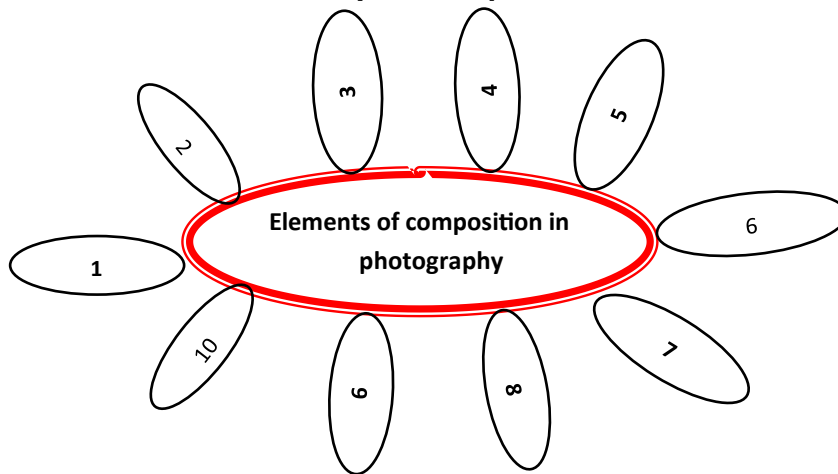
- Patterns tie photos together. They give photos a reason to exist – a strong statement for why the photographer took *this photo* and not some other.
- Patterns are arguably more obvious in manmade scenes, like architectural photography. But even natural scenes and living creatures have patterns, like feathers on a bird or waves crossing in the sea.



Application.

Direction: Complete the web below by enumerating *the* elements of composition in photography.

Activity 3. Complete the Web



Reflect

Complete the statements below.

I understand _____

I don't understand _____

I need more information about _____



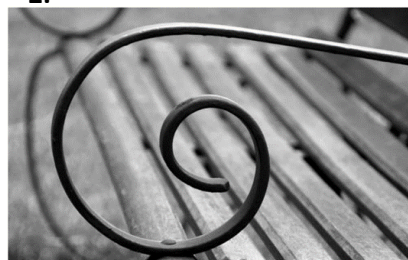
Reinforcement & Enrichment

Direction. Identify and explain in detail the elements of composition present in each picture below.

1.



2.



3.



4.



Assess Your Learning

I. **Multiple Choice.** Read each item very carefully. Select the letter of your choice.

1. It is the visual arrangement or placement of elements in a photograph.
a. Color b. Space c. Composition d. Pattern
2. Photos with high amounts of positive space feel _____.
a. empty b. crowded c. shallow d. depth
3. The arrangement of visual weight in a photo is called _____.
a. Texture b. Balance c. Distance d. Tone
4. What element in a composition that ties photos together?
a. Space b. Pattern c. Distance d. Balance
5. Anything that connects two parts of a photo is called _____.
A. Pattern b. Space c. Tone d. Lines

II. **True or False.** Write T if the statement is true and F if the statement is false. Write your answer on the space provide.

1. The colors in an image and how they are arranged can make or break a shot.
2. Texture is the simplest element in a picture.
3. Points matter in photography because they are one of the most fundamental ways to draw our attention or add interest to a particular area.
4. Good composition is a key element of good photographs.
5. Every important part of a photo should be filled in.



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