

Photography Composition - The First 19 Rules



Rule of Thirds

Position subject on the crosshairs



Framing

Frame subject with surrounding objects - buildings, people, trees



Repetition

Look for repeating objects - pile of fruit, row of poles etc



Leading Lines

Road, rails, lines of lampposts, buildings etc leading to subject



Negative Space

Leave space for subject to move into



Colour

Use complimentary or opposing colours in background



Balancing Elements

Balance background interest with foreground subject



Differential Focus

Subject in sharp focus to guide the eye



Symmetry

Half of the image is a mirror of the other half



Patterns

Look for naturally occurring & constructed patterns



Depth (layers)

Position subject in front of and behind objects to create 3D depth



Depth of Field

Blur background &/or foreground to separate your subject



Viewpoint

Photograph from different angles - get low, get high



Triangles & Diagonals

Look for diagonals in a scene, create triangles



Fill the Frame

Get in close and fill the frame with your subject



Simplicity

Cut out distractions - get close, blur background, darken background



Left to Right Rule

Moving subjects should go from left of frame to right of frame



Rule of Space

Leave space around your subject



Rule of Odds

Look for odd numbered design elements - 3 arches, 5 windows etc

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Learn the rules, use them, combine them. Then learn to break them for effect.