Communication Technology – Digital Photography
Basic Composition Techniques

For <u>any 5</u> of the following techniques, take a picture that meets the criteria. Save the picture according to the technique number. (Ex. 1 Negative Space) and place a copy into your handin folder.

Keep in mind that more than one technique can be used per picture and you don't have to use every technique for every picture.

1. Negative space

Negative space is the empty space around shapes and forms. In the photo below the black area is negative space and it serves to balance the area in which the marmot and rock occupy. Areas of a picture that contain "nothing" are important visual elements that provide balance in an image.

2. Rule of thirds

The rule states that an image should be imagined as divided into nine equal parts by two equally-spaced horizontal lines and two equally-spaced vertical lines, and that important compositional elements should be placed along these lines or their intersections.
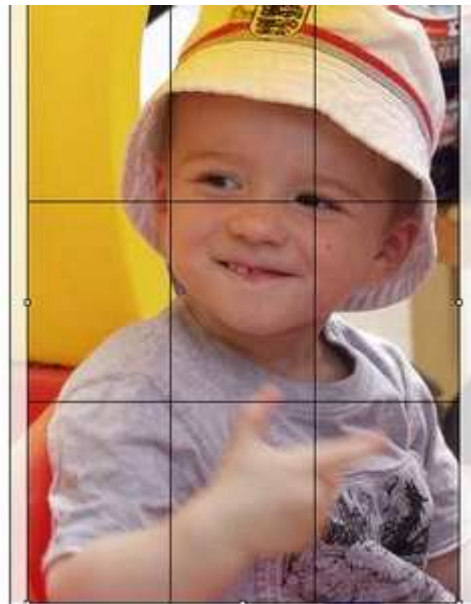
3. Rhythm

A group of objects creates a pattern, which becomes a point of interest as a whole. Find lines; theme or forms that are repeating to form a pattern or rhythm to become the main object as a whole.

4. Leading lines

They can create depth and perspective to an image. They can convey distance and provide a relationship between the foreground and background of the image. They draw the eyes into a picture.

5. Fill the frame

Beginning photographers have a tendency to keep well back from their subject. The acronym SCUFI (Shoot Close-Up For Impact) was coined to remind novices to get in close and fill the frame.


6. Framing

Use foreground elements to frame your photo's subject. Architectural elements work well (windows, doorways).

The important point here is the subject.

7. Viewpoint

Our viewpoint has a massive impact on the composition of our photo, and as a result it can **greatly affect** the message that the shot conveys. Rather than just shooting from eye level, consider photographing from high above, down at ground level
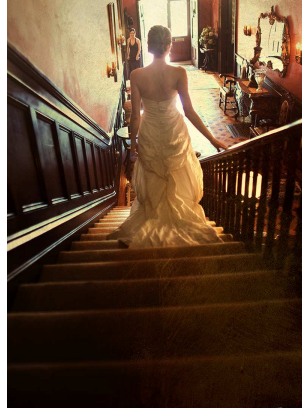
8. Contrast

To achieve high-colour contrast, one can look at the colour wheel for guidance.
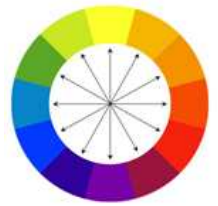
The opposite colour is one that compliments the other, resulting in a high-contrast photo.