Chapter 10
Making a photo (not sighting on a target)

• Don’t just look through the viewfinder or use the LCD to encircle the subject.
• Use your LCD or viewfinder to look at exactly what you are getting in your photograph.
• Look for images and not just snapshots.
• Is this an image you would like to share with someone.
• What should you include in the image that will make it pleasing to anyone that sees it?
Composition Guidelines
Don’t try to copy a scene

• There is a tendency for many photographers to want to copy a scene with their camera.
• To get a good image, you must find the photograph in the scene.
• Work within the limitations of the camera, and try using those limitations to make better images.
• Try to decide what you want to include and what is the main subject of any image you take.
Grabbing (and holding) the viewer’s eye

• Finding a photograph in the real world is finding ways to use what you frame in your viewfinder and LCD that makes sense or adds interest.

• What is the **definition** of photographic composition?
  – Arrangement of artistic parts so as to form a unified whole
  – The pleasing arrangement of the elements within a scene—the main subject, the foreground and background, and supporting subjects (From the Kodak Website)
Composition Guidelines
A clearly seen subject

• If you have to explain a photograph, then the subject is not clearly seen.
Dramatic light

- Dramatic, interesting light on your scene always gains attention as long as it complements and enhances your subject.

Gantz Park
late fall
afternoon
light
Unusual subjects

• An unusual subject immediately gains attention as long as it is clearly seen in the photograph.

Golden knight, carrying the flag as he lands at the Dayton Air Show.
Uncommon angles

• One quick way to set your photographs apart from others is to show your subject from an angle that people don’t usually see. Get the camera down low or up high. Look at the side or back of a subject instead of always at the front.

Low angle of Greek ruins in Delphi to show them against the blue sky.

Irish cemetery cross made to look much larger by getting down low.
Use the best camera angle.
Create Relationships

• As you create a photography, look at the subject and its relationship to the rest of the photograph.
• Center of interest-what is the main subject or idea of this photograph?
• Rule of thirds-this should be called the guideline of thirds.
Center of interest and Rule of thirds

Off center placement of the subject using the grid to help.
You can place this grid on your camera when you are taking images. Only displays on the LCD liveview screen.
Use the rule of thirds.

Visualize a grid on all your pictures and place the subject at where the lines meet or in the sections of the grid to divide the picture into thirds.
Isolate your subject

• When you look for ways to isolate your subject, you are making the image more understandable to your viewer and you are creating a photograph.

• Here are some ways to isolate your subject:
  – **Brightness contrast**-Move so the subject is against a background that is lighter or darker than it is.
  – **Color contrast**-Look for colors that are different in the subject and background.
  – **Sharpness contrast**-Use depth of field to make your subject sharp and everything else soft in focus.
  – **Use a telephoto lens**-With a longer focal length, you can often separate your subject from the rest of the world simply by making your subject larger in the frame and eliminating distractions.
  – **Use a wide-angle lens**- Put on a wide-angle lens and get up close to your subject.
  – **Get your subject away from the background**-Find a different angle so that the subject is separated from the background.
The blue sky provides a contrast to the white flowers.
Watch the background.
Examples of isolating the background

Blurred background, contrasting color, pattern all help to isolate the subject from the background
To provide emphasis to the subject, make the background blurred by using a shallow depth-of-field. This is created with a very large lens opening.
Simplicity

• There is a value in keeping a composition simple.
• It is then easier to deal with visually and it is always clearer to your viewer.
• Use only what is needed to make the photograph and get rid of everything else.
• Avoid visual clutter in an image.
• Two key areas to help you avoid problems in keeping it simple are the background and the edge.
Keep it simple.
Complex

Simple
Use composition to communicate

• What is your photo about?
• Composition can help you better communicate with your photographs.
• Your photographs should be used to share your views of the world with others.
• When you take an image be sure you know what the photograph is about and how you want to use it to communicate with others.
A glimpse of Greece-telling a story with images.
Framing the subject

- A simple and effective technique for defining a composition and giving it visual interest is to frame the subject in some way.
- Look for something in the foreground that can be used along some edge of the photograph to give depth and visual change to the image.
- Examples—a tree branch, a person in the foreground, an overhanging eve on a house, an arch, a window, etc.
- A frame creates a relationship between the subject and background.
- An out of focus frame can give the feeling of depth to your photograph
Use frames to add to the interest of your pictures.
Try some of the following pointers and be sure to experiment with your own photo composition.
Try a scene both in the horizontal and vertical format.
Move in close.
You do not have to show the entire subject in your picture.

Let the viewer complete the subject in their mind.
Disabled Bays

Disabled Badge holders only please display in front windscreen

Offenders will be liable to a penalty charge of £60

Get close on signs!

CLOSING DOWN SALE
Use lines for interest and unity.

The road leads into the frame to guide the viewers eyes into the photograph!
Try a close shot and a far shot of the same subject.
Use reflections for interesting photographs.
Take a number of shots of the same subject.

Later you can select the one you like.
Avoid mergers.

Mergers can easily be fixed using Adobe Photoshop!
Meet Mr. Balloon head.
Place the horizon off center.
Place verticals off center.
Make use of scale.
Include close and far subjects.
Try to maintain balance in your picture.

Off balance!

Balanced!
Use fill flash for subjects with strong back lighting.
Use a panoramic camera for an interesting view.

Gives you a wide angle view of your subject.
Taken with a disposable panoramic camera!
Store windows at night

Taken through the boat window

Experiment!
Take time exposures at night
Columbus skyline in the afternoon with west lighting.
Remember—Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

If you like the picture, take it.
Professional Photography Tips
Eccl. 3:11 a

“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time. . . .”