

Lesson 2

What makes a good photo?



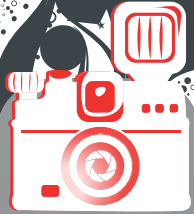
Good images follow certain rules. Once you know these rules, your photos will improve. And when you practice them over and over, your photos can become great.

As we look at your photos from the scavenger hunt, we will look to see whether any of these rules appear or how these photos could be improved by following these rules. We also will examine whether lighting, aperture or shutter speed were set correctly.

- **Angle** – Vantage point/point of view from which a photo was taken, such as eye level, overhead or ground level
- **Candid** – An un-posed photo, great for showing emotion as well as relationship between two or more people
- **Contrast** – Difference in brightness between the light and dark portions of an image
- **Depth of field** – Points nearest and farthest from the camera that are exceptionally sharp, or the range of things in the scene, from front to back, that remain sharp, creating a sense of depth
- **Emotion** – Highlighting how the subject or subjects in the photo feel, or what they are feeling
- **Filled frame** – Subject occupies entire frame, accomplished by either moving closer or using the zoom. Note that most digital cameras come with a digital zoom, which only simulates the zoom function and does not give you the highest-quality images. Check to see if your camera has an optical zoom, which is like a real zoom lens.
- **Framing** – The center of interest is viewed through something, usually naturally occurring such as other objects or people that are in the foreground and slightly out of focus
- **Leading lines** – Lines, such as a pointing arm, stair railing or fence, which lead the eye directly to the main subject or center of interest
- **Repetition** – Lines or shapes that reoccur, creating a pattern in an image
- **Rule of third** – A scene in the viewfinder or an image divided into thirds vertically and horizontally, like a tic-tac-toe board, so the focal point falls at one of the intersections, putting the center of interest slightly off center, making the image seem more dynamic
- **Selective focus** – Visual emphasis created by using depth of field to make the background or foreground sharper or more in focus

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Activity: Follow the rules

Before the next class period, pick three photo rules and shoot photos demonstrating those effects. Put your best five on a thumb drive and bring to class for discussion.

Select photos to take based on the **Photo Contest** categories:

- 1. Sports Action** – Capture athletes in action and the spirit of competition.
- 2. Student Life** – Show students as they really are - who that person is, what they do and why.
- 3. Academics/Community Service** – Show learning in progress or people making a difference by giving back to the community.
- 4. Club or Organization** – Clubs and organizations allow groups to shape each individual. Show how they do it.
- 5. Feature/Portrait** – Discover who a person is by showing what they are feeling or a bit of their personality by using the face and emotion as the focus.
- 6. School Spirit** – We want to see the meaning of school pride displayed on the sidelines, in the stands, at practice – by anyone not competing in an athletic event.