

Useful Photography Guidelines

Shutter Speed

One over the Focal length – Greater problem with longer (focal length) lenses..

ISO – Film Speed

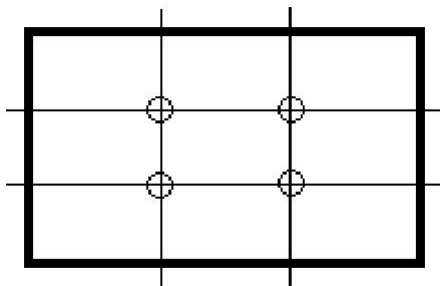
Used to maintain shutter speeds – Blur VS Noise
Higher = Higher noise (ISO is like a volume control)

Aperture

Wide = LOW number (example f2.8) = LOW Depth Of Field – typically used in Portraits
Narrow=HIGH number (example f22) = HIGH Depth Of Field – typically used in Landscapes

Composition

Rule of Thirds (called a RULE – BUT ONLY a GUIDE)



Place the most important part of your picture (the center of interest) at one of the four places where the imaginary lines cross. A person who is the subject of interest should look or appear to be moving toward the center of the picture. When taking a picture with a horizon, place the horizon line on one of the horizontal thirds, depending on the emphasis you want in the picture.

Level Horizon (Upright verticals)

Digital – can easily straighten in the Photo Editing software of your choice

Film – As your picture cannot be easily changed – Get It Right First Time & use a 'spirit level' & if possible a tripod.

Framing (foreground interest)

Framing is especially effective on overcast days when the sky is white or gray. Position yourself so that a branch, for example, covers most of the dull sky;

Lighting

Front Lighting - Most pictures use front lighting

Side Lighting - This kind of lighting generally casts shadows on half of the subject so is good for showing texture.

Back Lighting - you will get a strong silhouette and sometimes a halo effect – if you want details you must use flash....

Flat Lighting - produced in hazy or overcast conditions – is to avoided for 'landscape' shots – BUT because of the absence of shadows, it can be very good for portraits (especially if 'fill-in flash' is used).

Point of View

There is no law that says all pictures have to be taken from eye level and straight on. By taking a picture from a different angle, you can produce a totally new feeling, mood or effect.

The worm's eye view can be pretty interesting. By lying down on your stomach, you can get flowers in the foreground to frame your subject. If you are taking pictures of small children or pets, getting the camera down on their level can improve results. You can also avoid cluttered or ugly background by changing your point of view.

Climbing up on things and looking down from a high point of view offers lots of different opportunities. With people looking up at the camera, you will see just their faces without having to pose their bodies or lining them up. From above, you can also use grass or flowers as a background.

Speaking of lineups, rather than having your subjects lined up all the time, position them in a relaxed or informal manner. Have them turn their shoulders slightly so they do not appear so stiff. Use something like a rock or fence for a prop to position them around.

Leading Lines

A leading line can be almost anything: a road, path, sidewalk, fence, river, hedge, tree line or shadow. You will not find a strong leading line around every subject, but you should look for them if they are there and take advantage of them. Lines in a picture should lead into, not out of, the picture, and they should lead your eye toward the main subject.

Sometimes it is a matter of choosing the right angle or point of view to make leading lines lead into the picture. Starting a leading line from the corner of your picture will often improve composition.

Remember: Watch for strong lines that lead to your subject.