

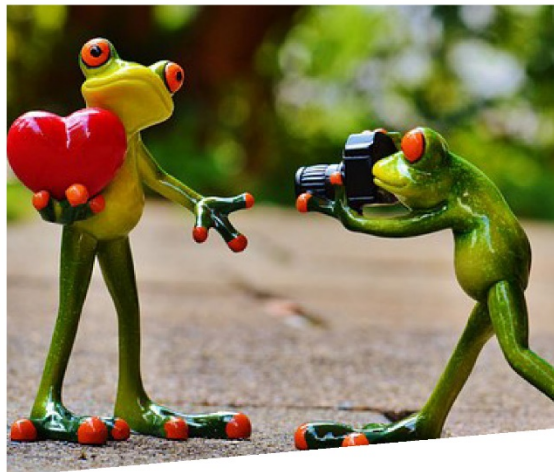


Science and  
Technology

**Pillar:** Science & Technology

**Project:** Photography

**Activity:** Composition of Photos  
Hawk, Human, Hedgehog



# Photo Composition

There are many different techniques you can use to achieve interesting photos.

## Framing techniques:

### **Rule of Thirds**

View the scene as if there was a tic-tac-toe board on top of it. Place your subject on one of the intersection lines

### **Limb Chops**

Don't crop your subject if the joint bends. Crop the photo more or zoom out to show more.

### **Leading Lines**

Look for lines to guide the viewer's eye through the frame, leading them to the subject. This can be things such as walls, walkways, stairs, furniture, fences, benches and railings.

### **Fill the Frame**

If your subject is interesting, don't be afraid to fill the entire frame. This could also be called a close up.

### **Negative Space**

This is the empty space around the subject. It helps draw the eye to the subject, since there are no distractions around.

## Lighting Techniques:

### **Catchlights**

This is a reflection of light in your subject's eye. Gives the impression of a twinkle in the eye. This happens when the subject is facing the light source.

### **Backlighting**

This technique is achieved by shooting into the light. It is difficult to achieve backlit photos which aren't too dark, so make sure to try different settings on your camera to make it work.

### **Low light**

Embrace the shadows and shoot in low light. It will focus the viewer's eye on the subject matter. It will seem underexposed while shooting, but can create some interesting results. Shoot as if it were optimal light.

### **Natural light**

Instead of turning on lights, use the natural light coming through windows or outside. Don't have your subject face the window – instead put them at a 45 degree angle, to give your subject more depth.

## **Activity: Hedgehog, Human, Hawk**

This activity will help you to:

1. Plan shots from various heights and angles.
2. Consider other points of view.

### **The Task**

1. Select a subject. Photograph it from at least three different heights and angles.
2. Compare the results. What differences do you notice in lighting, emphasis of the picture, composition?
3. If possible, return to your subject. Compare the pictures to your normal view while standing.
4. The next time you are photographing a public event, shoot from a different height than you normally do.
5. How does the hedgehog's viewpoint affect the pictures? How does the hawk's viewpoint change things?

## **Activity: The Story of...**

This activity will help you to:

- plan and organize shots in logical fashion
- tell a story visually
- make clear, self-explanatory pictures
- research a particular product or industry

### **The Task**

1. Choose your subject. It can be something like cleaning the engine of a lawnmower, making bread, building a bird house, painting a fence or braiding a horse halter. It could also be something that will take a long time to develop, such as a growing plant.
2. List the key shots that will show the important steps of your subject.
3. Plan the layout and order of those shots.
4. Make the shots, paying attention to composition, lighting and layout.
5. After development, select the best shots to tell the story. Do you need to reshoot any?
6. Display or present your finished story either in poster, slide show or album format. If someone helped you with posing or modeling, make sure they are one of the first to see it!

## **Activity: Alphabet Soup**

This activity helps you to:

- look at items you might not otherwise consider as photography subjects
- develop your creativity
- work in a range of environments
- think in new ways

### **The Task**

1. Make a collection of 26 photographs which represent each letter of the alphabet.
2. Present your collection in an album, poster, or slide program.

## Other Tips:

- Play with your camera. Try different settings to see what works
  - Aperture – this is the f-stop on camera. A smaller number is a wider opening and lets more light in. (ie f4 lets in a lot of light, while f20 lets in less light) The aperture can have an impact on the depth of field. A wider aperture will blur out the background more than a higher aperture.
  - Shutter speed – this is how fast the shutter clicks. It is like a door opening to take the photo. A faster shutter speed will have less movement, but will also let less light in.
- Practice
  - You won't always get the shot you want the first time. Take lots of photos and practice until you learn your camera and new techniques.
- Don't be afraid to experiment
  - Try to take from different angles, different lighting, with different techniques.