



Unit 7a

Best Shot Shooting Guide

Notes

- most can be photos or videos
- a few can only be video (they are labeled)
- you will retouch the photos later in Photoshop (unit 7b)
- the goal is to practice photography from a video perspective
- please get these shots AFTER completing all of the Unit 6 lessons



U6d1: Single Center of Interest

✓ when done



the masked knight is the subject



the sculpture is the subject



the bridge is the subject

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with a single subject

Notes

- focus can help
- contrast can help
- lines can help
- if a person is in the foreground then he or she is always the subject

U6d2: Odd # of Prime Objects

✓ when done



the three people balance each other



three trunks

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with an odd number of prime objects

Notes

- avoid even numbers
- it's more pleasing to the eye



U6d3: Shifting Center of Interest

✓ when done



focus starts on the man on the left

these two images are from different moments in the same video clip



focus shifts to the woman on the right

Directions

Shoot a 1 to 3 second video with a shifting center of interest

Notes

- this MUST be video
- have one object in focus first
- then shift to another object
- a tripod REALLY helps

U6g3: Set Decoration

✓ when done



just the right amount of props



no clutter

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good set decoration

Notes

- Use props appropriately
- okay to use existing props
- OK to move props
- clean out cluttered backgrounds
- don't cut off items in background
- pick the right props
- pick the right kind of light
- make it look natural



appropriate kitchen props, but no clutter

U6e1: Foreground and Background

✓ when done



man in back adds contrast



rock = vantage point



foreground frames background



row of stones connects back to front and creates depth

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good use of both foreground *and* background

Notes

- the background of a shot is an important way to give context
- the background helps tell the story
- avoid cluttered backgrounds
- create depth

U6e2: Positive and Negative Space

✓ when done



negative space behind boy



balance of water and people



negative space = openness

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good balance of positive and negative space

Notes

- positive space is active
- negative space is empty
- faces are always positive
- use them both well
- to create balance



U6e: Balance Rules

U6e3: Contrast

✓ when done



contrast of color



contrast of texture



contrast of light and dark

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good use of contrast

Notes

- Contrast means DIFFERENCE
- contrasting colors
- contrasting textures
- contrasting shapes
- contrasting ideas
- contrasting tone

U6e4: Repetition

✓ when done



repeating textures and colors



repeating shapes



repeating straight lines

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good use of repetition

Notes

- Repeating gives a shot unity
- repeating colors
- repeating shapes
- repeating lines
- repeating textures
- repeating objects
- repeating ideas

U6e5: Balance of Mass

✓ when done



all shapes (masses) balance each other in a pleasing way



asymmetrical balance



symmetrical balance



radial balance

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good balance of mass

Notes

- Balance your objects
- imagine a see-saw in your image
- move camera to achieve balance
- *most* balance is asymmetrical
- symmetrical balance is OK
- so is radial balance

U6e6: Balance of Tone

✓ when done



all colors are similar



warm and cool colors contrast



balance of light and dark

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good balance of tone

Notes

- lightness versus darkness
- color balance
- harmonious colors
- dark areas and light areas

U6e7: Tonal Balance From Silhouette

✓ when done



note - both of these images had their contrast turned up in Photoshop (you'll do this with your photos in the next lesson)

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with a silhouette effect

Notes

- Silhouette is a dark outline
- put light behind your subject
- AKA halo effect
- this is VERY high contrast
- loss of detail on subject

U6e8: Tonal Balance With Warm Colors

✓ when done



note - both of these images were edited in Photoshop with a warming filter (you'll do this with your photos in the next lesson)

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with warm colors

Notes

- Warm colors are exciting
- reds and yellows
- ramp up the energy level

U6e9: Tonal Balance With Cool Colors

✓ when done



note - both of these images were edited in Photoshop with a cooling filter (you'll do this with your photos in the next lesson)

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with cool colors

Notes

- Cool colors are refreshing
- blues
- greys
- some greens
- look wintry

U6f2: Lines for Rule of Thirds

✓ when done



lines between water, rocks, and rainbow all serve to divide this image into thirds both horizontally and diagonally



ground is 2/3, train is 1/3



rail lines divide into thirds

Directions

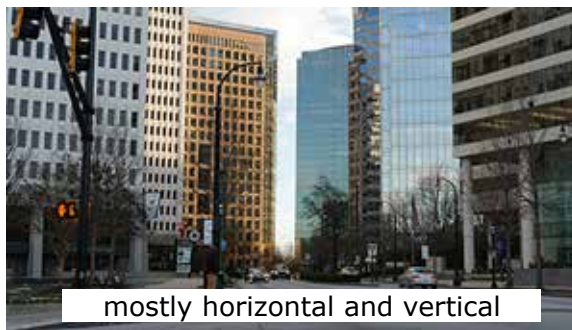
Shoot a photo or video that uses existing lines to follow the rule of thirds

Notes

- look for existing lines
- edges of objects are lines
- edges of colors are also lines
- can be curved or straight
- use lines to point to your subject

U6f3: Straight Lines

✓ when done



mostly horizontal and vertical



lines recede toward horizon



a few diagonals are okay

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good use of straight lines

Notes

- vertical and horizontal lines
- NOT diagonal
- look for man made objects
- think about geometry
- edges of objects are lines
- edges of colors are also lines
- use lines to point to your subject

U6f4: Diagonal Lines

✓ when done



The harsh *diagonals* in the wall hole contrast with the *straight* lines everywhere else. This adds to the drama and makes the viewer feel uncomfortable.



note the shadow, which creates balance



diagonal lines add to the excitement

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good use of diagonal lines

Notes

- might show drama
- could appear edgy, weird
- think about geometry
- edges of objects are lines
- edges of colors are also lines
- use lines to point to your subject

U6f5: Curved Lines

✓ when done

The curves of the white petals cradle the cone inside them. Then the curves on the cone add more complexity. Look at how many curves are repeated in this image.



repeating curves



this curve creates depth

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good use of curved lines

Notes

- look for organic shapes
- use fore and background
- think about geometry
- edges of objects are lines
- edges of colors are also lines
- use lines to point to your subject



Line Rules

U6f6: Framing

✓ when done



door frames outside world



framed by bridge



rocks frame the boys

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with a framed subject

Notes

- use objects to create frames
- move the camera if necessary
- look for windows, doors
- find foreground objects

U6f7: Depth

✓ when done



Directions

Shoot a photo or video with good use of depth

Notes

- Create the illusion of depth
- use foreground and background
- use receding lines
- pull audience into shot
- use focus to create depth
- use mirrors, windows



the mirror frames and creates depth



focus is in background

Composition Rules

U6g1: Static Composition

✓ when done



stability contrasts with decay



mostly vertical and horizontal lines



everything is at similar depth



static, but still interesting

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with a static composition

Notes

- okay for static shots to be boring
- look for straight lines
- look for parallel lines
- use squares and rectangles
- flat instead of deep

U6g2: Dynamic Composition

✓ when done



repeating diagonal lines fan out radially, then the boy's red shirt contrasts



single line of trail connects foreground to background



receding lines and repeated shapes



interplay of light and dark, straight and curved

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with a dynamic composition

Notes

- should be exciting
- convey action and energy
- use dynamic lines
- combine different lines
- create good depth
- create visual "flow"
- pull the viewer's eye in

U6h1: Straight Angle

✓ when done

These two people are different heights, so it's okay that their eyes are at different levels. The camera is at eye level with the boy, who is closer to us and therefore the subject.



it's easy to forget that we need to be at eye level with pets and children



straight angle = eye level with subject

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with the camera at a straight angle with the subject

Notes

- must be at eye level
- put audience even with subject
- straight angle
- children and pets are challenging

U6h2: High Angle

✓ when done



high angle makes subject look defeated



high angle adds drama



high angle makes audience feel "above" the subject

Directions

Shoot a photo or video with the camera at a high angle above the subject

Notes

- makes subject look weak
- dramatic and exciting
- audience is above subject



U6h3: Low Angle

✓ when done



these businesspeople seem confident because of our low angle



tractor seems powerful because of the camera's low angle



this low angle draws our attention to the open sky above

Directions

Shoot a photo or video from a low angle with the camera below the subject

Notes

- Low angle is from below
- makes subject look strong
- puts audience below subject

U6i3: Tracking shots

✓ when done



tracking by panning with them as they walk (don't forget the rule of leading looks)



following over-the-shoulder



tracking OTS with 2 people

Directions

Shoot a 1 to 3 second video clip that tracks a moving subject

Notes

- camera follows the subject
- this **MUST** be video
- you can follow from any side
- use stabilization, if possible
- remember leading looks

U6j: Crossing the Line

✓ when done

Directions



In this scene a boy is reading on the couch. We are going to shoot at least three shots for this scene. Every shot needs to be from the same side of the line of action (180 degree rule).



This shot is fine. It fits with the others because he's facing the same direction.



This shot is fine. It fits with the others because he's facing the same direction.



This shot is fine. It fits with the others because he's facing the same direction.

Shoot a AT LEAST THREE photos or videos that demonstrate the 180 degree rule

Notes

- find a location
- decide on the line of action
- Stay on one side of line of action
- shoot **AT LEAST THREE** photos or videos that all come from one side of the line of action
- try to vary the shots as much as possible without crossing the line
- don't forget close-ups

This shot would be **WRONG** if we paired it with one of the others. It is shot from the opposite side of the 180 degree line. So he's facing the opposite direction. If we edited a scene including this shot then it would not fit visually with the other shots.

