

Photography

Mr. Weisbrod

Assignment 1: Elements and Principles

Objective:

To take photographs that will have obvious and excellent examples of the Elements and Principles of Design. These are the building blocks that all artists use to create successful images.

You are going to be asked to find certain design elements in the world around you, and capture those designs with your camera. You must use the Elements and Principles to make those designs as attractive as possible. This is the basis of creating a good “composition.”

Directions:

You must find 12 of the 29 “designs” listed on the back of this sheet. You may choose which ones you want to photograph, but you may photograph each design only once.

You can also **bracket** each photograph, which means taking *three* frames of *each* shot, with different camera settings. You do NOT have to do this for each shot, however. With the *first* frame, the camera’s settings will be at the camera meter’s recommended exposure. The *second* shot will be one stop **above** the camera meter’s recommended exposure, and the *third* shot will be at one stop **below** the camera meter’s recommended exposure.

So, for instance, if your camera meter is telling you to shoot at 1/60 sec at f/11, then you bracket would look like this:

Exposure 1: 1/60 sec @ f/11
Exposure 2: 1/60 sec @ f/8
Exposure 3: 1/60 sec @ f/22

OR

Exposure 1: 1/60 sec @ f/11
Exposure 2: 1/30 sec @ f/11
Exposure 3: 1/125 sec @ f/11

This is important to do, because the camera’s meter does not understand the value of the main subject. It can only assume that the average value of the entire scene is a perfect, middle-gray (called 18% gray by photographers). This is, of course, *almost never* the case. So by **bracketing** your exposures, you ensure that you get the best exposure somewhere amongst those three exposures. And of course, you can also bracket by more than one stop, if the lighting situation is extremely complicated, or the subject(s) have a lot of contrast, etc.

You must photograph a **minimum** of 120 images.

Photograph at least 12 of the following designs:

- 1) “S” curves in nature
- 2) “S” curves that are man-made (artifacts)
- 3) A repetitive pattern – of shapes, forms, or textures
- 4) Two different textures in the same area
- 5) Light foreground object verses a dark foreground object
- 6) Natural vs. Mechanized
- 7) Triangular Shapes (real or imagined)
- 8) **Abstract** an object by getting closer
- 9) Photograph an object so that it “vanishes”
- 10) Reflection of an object in another object
- 11) Distortion of an object *through* another object
- 12) Photograph an object partially in focus and partially out of focus
- 13) A **dark** foreground object against a **light** background
- 14) A **light** foreground object against a **dark** background
- 15) A **light** foreground object against a **light** background – “*High Key*”
- 16) A **dark** foreground object against a **dark** background – “*Low Key*”
- 17) Make an everyday object seem exotic/strange.
- 18) Frame an object inside another object
- 19) Use blurring to communicate the *motion* of an object
- 20) Use depth of field to **emphasize** an object
- 21) Photograph just a portion of a person’s face
- 22) Photograph something you fear so that we would be scared as well
- 23) Make a brown paper bag look beautiful
- 24) Make a photograph that could be titled “Light and Shadow”
- 24) Photograph two objects that are in harmony with each other
- 25) Make a photograph that could be titled “Unexpected”
- 26) Photograph your most favorite thing.
- 27) Photograph your least favorite thing.
- 28) Make a photograph that could be titled “open”
- 29) Make a photograph that could be titled “closed”