

Rock Star Photos

Photography Basics

Module 2: The Power Of Composition

Lesson 1 - Know What Your Subject Is

NOTES:

Composition in a photograph refers to the placement of the elements within your photo. Professional photographers understand the importance of the placement of the subject in relationship to the other items in a photo. **Composition is key!** Every photo has the ability to tell a single story if it is done right. Understanding the elements that help create good composition will help make your imagery powerful and interesting.

The first step to good composition is knowing what your subject is within your photo. If you don't set up the overall composition to draw attention toward your subject it may be difficult for the viewer to know what your intention is with your photo. Every photo needs to tell a story!

Your subject is always your key point of interest so be aware of how the surrounding scenery is affecting the subject. Focus on the subject and allow the other details in the shot to help tell your story and create interest. You never want the unimportant elements in your frame to distract attention away from your intended subject.

Is there anything distracting in the background you can hide by moving a little to the left or right? Are there elements in your photograph that are distracting? Be aware of trees, telephone poles, or other distracting items. Does something appear to be growing out of someone's head?

Study not only your subject but the elements surrounding your subject and decide how to take the photo in a way that showcases your subject in the best way possible.

A great photo will generate some kind of emotion within the viewer without them knowing that is the reason they love what they see. If you are able to generate some form of emotional joy, intrigue, anger, sympathy, or any other internal feeling within your viewer you have achieved the primary goal a rock star photograph. Always know what your subject is before taking the photo!