Framing, Cropping, and Composition
Framing

- What do you think “framing” means in photography?
  - Framing refers to what is included and excluded in the image
  - Use the viewfinder edges to frame your composition
    - What is a quick definition of “composition”?

- How is framing similar to POV?
  - Photographers control what the viewer’s see

- The information provided determines how viewer’s “read” the image.
  - What does it mean to “read” an image?
Questions to Consider About Framing

- What is included in the frame?
  - Excluded?
- What do you imagine is beyond the frame?
- Why would the photographer frame this image this way?

Stephen Shore
There is a creative fraction of a second when you are taking a picture. Your eye must see a composition or an expression that life itself offers you, and you must know with intuition when to click the camera. That is the moment the photographer is creative.

Henri Cartier-Bresson
Oop! The Moment!
Once you miss it, it is gone forever.

Henri Cartier-Bresson
To me, photography is the simultaneous recognition, in a fraction of a second, of the significance of an event as well as of a precise organization of forms which give that even its proper expression.

Henri Cartier-Bresson
You Try!

- Use the strips of paper to create a viewfinder.
- Move around the room and use your viewfinder to see how you can create images by framing.
- Notice how the relationship between forms (objects/people) change as you move and tilt it at various angles.
- Look for your "decisive moment"
  - Point of harmony
  - Something interesting
Reflect: Answer one of the following as your journal entry

- What did you notice as you moved around the room?
- What did you consider your decisive moment and why?
- What did you include/exclude and why?
Cropping
What is Cropping?

- How have you used cropping while making your photographs?
- How have you used cropping after making a photograph?
- Cropping is the exclusion of a portion of a subject
  - Could be a limb, a hat, part of a chair, etc.
- How is this different from framing?
When and What to Crop

- Would you crop something that provides information?
  - Typically things that are not needed because there is enough information to image what is beyond the frame.
- Photographer’s selection of a scene.
  - Can help make your statement
- If used ineffectively, can look awkward or like something is missing
Questions to Consider About Cropping

- Describe how this image/subject is cropped.
- How does the cropping help draw attention to what the photograph is saying?
- How does cropping affect how you interpret this image?
- Imagine that nothing on this woman was cropped. How would it change the photograph?

William Eggleston
Try It and Reflect!

- What did you notice as you moved around the room?
- What did you crop and why?
- Did you find any awkward ways of cropping?
Today’s To Do List

- Get your laptop out and log in
- Get out your worksheet from our Framing/Cropping Photo Shoot
- Open the image you selected as the best in PhotoShop
- Save a Copy
- Play with the cropping tool (I’ll demonstrate) to find the best crop
- Make a slide a new slide in the Photo PPT on Google Drive with your name and “Framing/Cropping” typed in the header
- Place the original photo on the left, the cropped image on the right.
- Add a text box under the images explaining which image is better and why. Look back at your notes on framing and cropping if needed.
- Be reading to learn more about Composition!
What is Composition?

- We already learned about framing and cropping which are tools/techniques to help you compose an image.
- So what does COMPOSITION mean??
- Discuss at your table and have one person ready to share your group definition.
Composition is...

- How everything (lines, shapes, angles, colors, tones, patterns, & depth) come together or are arranged in the positive and negative space.
**Shape:** definite forms created by objects, figures, and shadows

- Can you find different shapes in the image?
- Organic vs. Geometric
- Shapes in the shadows?
- *Photo by Jeremy Bolan*
Line: borders between shapes; have to “see through” the subject

- Let your eyes follow the lines in the image.
- How are these lines different from drawing/painting?
- What qualities do the lines have (strong, bold, thin, curvy, straight, circular, diagonal, etc.)?
- Do the lines create calmness or show activity?
- Photo by Mary Ellen Mark
**Angle:** draw our attention in certain directions

- Student the angles created by the intersection of lines and shapes in this image.
- What do they lead your eyes to?
- Do they draw your attention in or out of the frame?
- *Photo by Barbara Kasten*
Color and Tone: may use a color harmony; may be bright or dull; may be dark or light

- Describe the colors in this photograph.
- Are there patterns of colors?
- How do the colors make you feel?
- Photo by Bob Carey
Pattern: create balance and structure in a composition; can also emphasize the main idea

- What patterns can you find?
- Repeated shapes or lines?
- Does it create rhythm? Think about a pattern in music.
- Describe the quality of the pattern (loud, quiet, busy, delicate, heavy).
- What does the pattern draw your attention to?

Photo by LaToya Ruby Frazier
Depth: illusion created by the way forms are rendered on a 2D surface (perspective-POV-can create depth).

- How did this photographer create depth?
- What is in the foreground?
- What is in the middle ground?
- What is in the background?
Balance

- Where have you heard the word balance?
- Balance is the distribution of visual weight.
- How the elements of art are distributed in an artwork is _____________.
- There are 3 types of balance
  - Symmetrical
  - Asymmetrical
  - Radial
Symmetrical photo by Bob Carey
Asymmetrical  
photo by Mary Ellen Mark
Radial photo by Andy Goldsworthy
Rule of Thirds  

*photo by Cindy Sherman*
To Do

- Choose one photo from this presentation to write about.
- Add a new slide to the Photo One presentation on Google Docs. In the header, include your name, and the name of the artist whose image you chose.
- Use the slides in this presentation to analyze and describe the image's Shapes, Lines, Angles, Colors/Tones, Pattern, Depth, and Balance.
LG: I will be able to create a series of photographs demonstrating each aspect of composition while carefully choosing the correct exposure, best POV, depth of field, framing, and cropping.

Create a series of photos that highlights each of the following compositional elements:
- Line
- Shape
- Angle
- Depth
- Color or Tone
- Pattern

You will then write an artist statement to summarize how each photograph highlights the compositional element and explain what type of balance each has.

Consider framing, cropping, balance, and the rule of thirds.
Websites

- https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2016/jul/20/william-eggleston-portraits-review-momentous-trivial-marvellous#img-1
- http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/mary-ellen-mark/
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- http://www.vivianmaier.com/gallery/street-5/#slide-1