

Photography

Elements of Design Composition Studies

Now that you have had a chance to take pictures and to learn how to use the basic features of the camera, it is time to concentrate on the **elements of design** in the creation of several quality photographs which will help you focus on the concepts of good photographic composition. The purpose of this assignment is to help you improve your photographic skills in composition, craftsmanship, communication and use of the creative process.

- 1. You will need to take many photographs concentrating on excellent composition. When you are done you will choose seven different photographs. Each one should specifically demonstrate your understanding of each one of the seven elements of design:**
 - **Line**--A mark with length. We also perceive lines as the edges of shapes and forms. Lines can guide the viewer's eye within a piece of art.
 - **Value**--Darkness, lightness and contrast between shades and tones
 - **Shape**--A two dimensional enclosed space
 - **Form**--A three dimensional figure
 - **Color**--The perception of and organization of hues, shades, tints and tones
 - **Texture**—A photograph in which objects appear to have a tactile surfaces.
 - **Space** (in this case we are thinking of creating the illusion of space on a 2-D surface as well as organizing the other elements into dynamic compositions)
- 2. Remember that a photographic composition is not a pattern and it is not a photograph of other types of artwork or photography. This must be your own original work, not a picture captured from the internet or borrowed from a friend.**
- 3. Remember that you are responsible for your own seven photographs. If you are working with a partner, be sure that all photographs you turn in are different from those of your partner.**
4. You may improve your compositions by **cropping, adjusting levels, shadows and highlights, auto color or the brightness and contrast of your photograph.** We practiced these skills in class and the handouts for each are in your notebooks.
- 5. Remember! You MAY NOT use filters or other digital manipulations at this time!!**
6. Rename each chosen photograph as its representative element of design and save it into one file named "**elements.**"
7. Create **two automated contact sheets** following the directions in your lab handbook.
8. Choose two columns across and two rows down for your contact sheet layout.
9. This way one sheet will have four images and the other will have three.
10. Use the text tool to put your name on each contact sheet.
11. **To print your contact sheet follow these steps:**
12. Choose **print** from the file menu or "**Ctrl. P**"
13. Choose the color laser printer (**HP4650C**) in the printer selection

Grading: Staple to your contact sheets the scoring guide on the back of these directions. Each photograph is worth 4 points, one point for each Fine Art Standard.

- **Composition**
- **Communication**
- **Craftsmanship**
- **Use of Creative Process**