

# Las Positas College Photography Program

Introduction to Photography PHOTO 56

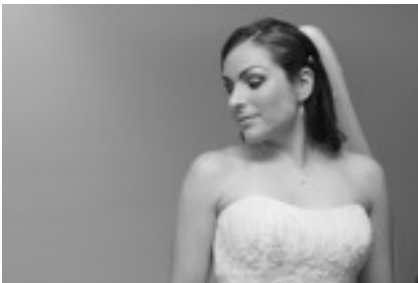
**Instructor:** Jason Anaya

**Email:** [anayaphoto@mac.com](mailto:anayaphoto@mac.com)

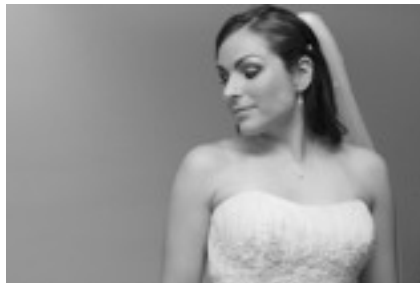
## Assignment 1 - Composition.

This assignment is designed to teach you basic photography guidelines that can help you compose a better image. Techniques such as cropping, balance, framing, mergers, backgrounds, and depth-of-field.

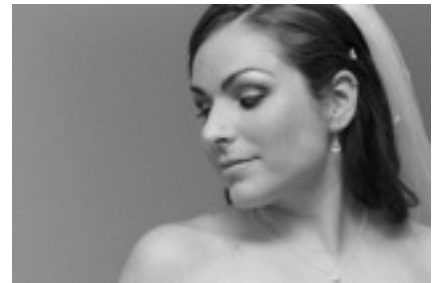
**Cropping** is an art in itself and comes with practice. Here are some guidelines to help you get started. First make sure you do most of your cropping in the camera when you are taking the photo, be sure to leave a little room to give yourself more options when printing. Remember that a 35mm negative will only print full frame at 4x6 or 8x12, a 5x7 or 8x10 crops off the ends of the photo. When cropping people, do not crop too close to the head, leave some room. If you must crop close to the head crop into the head, aka "Head Crop." This can be done when the shot is a close up of the face.



Good Crop



Too Close



Head Crop

When cropping limbs, do not crop at joints, crop between them.



Bad Crop



Good Crop

**Leading Lines** are used to take the viewers eye from the outside of the photo to the inside, or to the subject. Light can also be used as a leading line. The viewers eye is naturally drawn to the lightest part of the image.

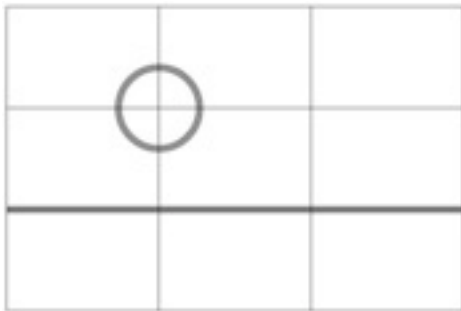


**Mergers** are another problem you have to watch out for. Mergers occur when something from the background merges with something in the foreground. This is most common when a tree sticks out of someones head.



**Backgrounds.** When composing your shot keep an eye on your background, remember simple is best. When you cant find a simple background, there are 3 easy ways to create one. 1. Shoot up, make the sky your background. 2. Shoot down, make the ground your background. 3. Use a wide open aperture and blur the background.

**Rule of thirds** is a way to offset the subject or main focal point of the image in order to create a stronger composition. Divide the scene into thirds, and to focal point goes at one of these intersections. Horizons should line up with one of the thirds as well.



**Shoot:**

20 images.

Shots 1-10: Practice with rule of thirds.

Shots 11-20: Practice with leading lines.

**For Turn In:**

You will be turning in your images digitally to me via the server in class. No Prints are required for this assignment.