

# Group Shoot: Fall/Composition

When considering how to improve as a photographer, composition can be a great place to start. Here are five tips to help you frame your images for the best photos possible.

## Top Tips

### 1. Simplify your scene.

Choose the subject of your image and then select a focal point and viewpoint that makes it the center of attention in the frame. Eliminate extra details that may clutter the image and draw the focus away from your subject.



Too many details

Simplified scene

### 2. Avoid the middle.

It is always tempting to place your subject dead center in the frame but this is not always the most aesthetic approach. Using the rule of thirds can help to break up the frame and create a more interesting composition. The rule of thirds refers to splitting an image up into three parts and placing your subject on one of these imaginary lines or intersections, helping to create a balanced and compelling image.



Before

After

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## 3. Fill the frame.

When shooting at a distance, it can be tempting to leave a lot of negative space around your subject. This can make your subject appear smaller and you may lose the interest of your viewers if they have to lean closer to get a better look. Consider getting closer to your subject or zooming in to fill the frame. This will increase details and make for a more interesting image.



## 4. Room to move.

When positioning your subject in the frame make sure to consider the direction of movement or the gaze of your subject. While images are static, they can still give the viewer a sense of movement and direction. It's important to make sure that there is space for the viewer's eye to travel.



Before

After

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## 5. Keep your eye on the background.

While your subject may be the most important element of an image, it's important to pay attention to the background as well. Consider repositioning yourself if you see any distracting elements behind your subject. You can also shorten your depth of field to throw a background out of focus when needed.



For more useful tips on composition check out this ZenBlog article written by Pro Team photographer Dan Ballard:  
<http://bit.ly/1mCUy0u>



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## Objectives

### 1. Get outside and use your surroundings

Choose an area nearby to shoot with composition in mind. Objects such as buildings, trees, grass, flowers, etc. can be great subjects to start with when practicing composition techniques.

### 2. Challenge yourself

When practicing composition, try to select a tricky subject that may be difficult to photograph such as an object with lots of other objects around it. The more you challenge yourself, the faster you will learn and improve.

### 3. Take advantage of the weather

Shoot outside with natural light and show the colors of the season in your images. Consider shooting late in the day when the sun is low in the sky. This way you can take advantage of golden light and graphic shadows.

## The Challenge

Create 5 portfolio-worthy images using the following characteristics:

- Show the colors of the season or a holiday theme
- Use natural light wherever possible
- Play with depth of field