



# FIND YOUR FOCUS

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**4-H STEM**



# Introduction

## OVERVIEW

Understanding how your camera works and the elements/principles of art are imperative to capturing a high quality image. You are **MAKING** photographs not just taking pictures. You are creating your own art piece. Here are some key elements of design to keep in mind.

**Focus:** the focal point of a picture

**Depth-of-Field:** the area beyond the focus of a picture; can be in front of, behind, or to the sides of the focal point

**Exposure:** refers to the amount of light that reaches the camera's sensor, determined by the shutter speed and size of the lens opening

The best photos have sharp focus and a strong subject, meaning that it is easy to recognize what the picture is highlighting. The subject should be in focus and should have a plain, uncluttered background. Your subject can be anything!

To get a **sharp focus**, emphasize the subjects' eyes. To get a **strong subject** have the subject fill a substantial part the frame, meaning that there is no question what the photograph is of or is about. To get a plain, uncluttered **background** make sure that you are aware of your surroundings and that it will not distract or take away from the subject of the picture.

**Lighting** helps draw the focus to the subject

**Front Lighting:** when light shines on the side of the subject that is facing the photographer

**Backlighting:** adds depth of background to the image and shows the intrinsic details of the subject

**Diffuse Lighting:** there are no distinct shadows; soft light like in the shade or indoors near a window



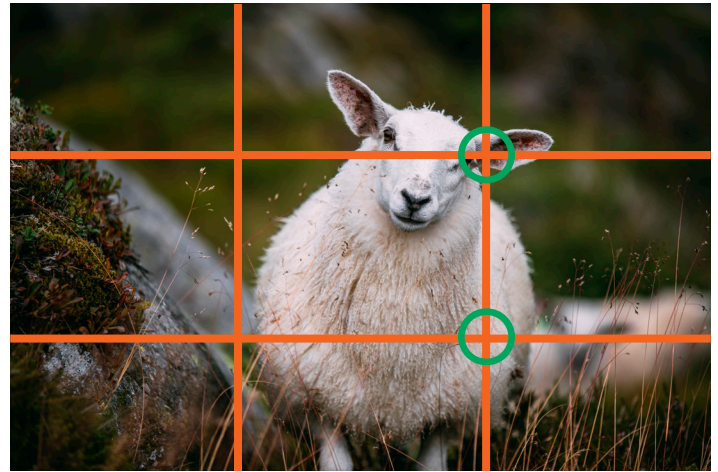
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# Application

## ENGAGING BALANCE

Having a strong subject matter is essential in photography. Photographers use the **Rule of Thirds** as a simple trick to ensure the strength of their subject. Imagine laying a 3X3 grid over a photo. A strong subject will be in at least 1-3 of the intersections of the grid.



**Angles** help make the picture more pleasing and draws your eyes to the picture. Your eyes naturally travel in a **Z-pattern** shape. For example, when you read a book or article, you read from left to right. Similarly, when you look at a picture you start by looking at the top left corner, skimming across the top, down the middle, and then diagonally down to the left corner and across the bottom right.





# Picture This

## SCAVENGER HUNT

Now it's time to become photographers! Using a camera, any camera, go practice capturing images using the rule of thirds, lighting and focus to maximize your image quality. You can use a compact camera, DSLR camera, disposable camera, or even the camera on you SMART device.

Take pictures of anything. Try and find the following shapes and snap a picture of them:

1. Circle
2. Square
3. Triangle
4. A shape of your choice!

