

How to Take Better Pictures

...a Jumonville Guide for Photos Taken With Digital Cameras

With the digital camera that you are given for this week, you should be able to produce a sharp, well-exposed image. What will give you really good photos is how well you compose your images. The tips below will help you create eye-catching compositions—and transform your photos from ordinary shots into quality photos.

Follow the Rule of Thirds



Divide the image into three sections. Placing your subject off-center creates an interesting, dynamic image. Imagine your photograph divided into three horizontal and vertical sections. To compose a well-balanced, off-center shot, place your subject near the intersections of the imaginary grid lines. This is called the rule of thirds.



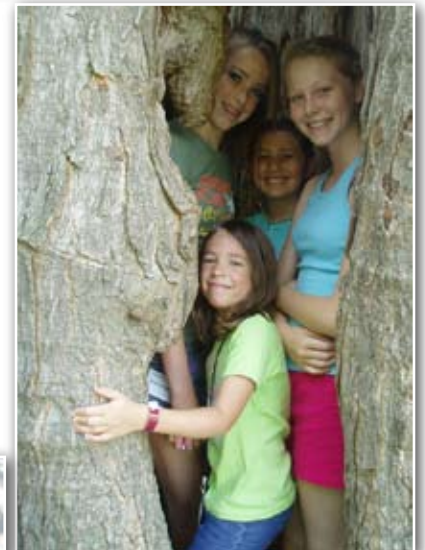
Emphasize a dramatic sky by placing the horizon along the lower grid line



Get Close

Your subject is interesting, so get close to it. Don't let your pictures suffer from the "Grandma at the Grand Canyon" syndrome, with a tiny subject and lots of boring, irrelevant space.

Get close to your subject



Try Unusual Angles

Be bold! Try turning your camera to 45 degrees before snapping a picture. Or instead of snapping it from eye level, kneel down or lie on the ground to get a more interesting shot.



Take a picture from an unusual angle.





Frame Your Subject

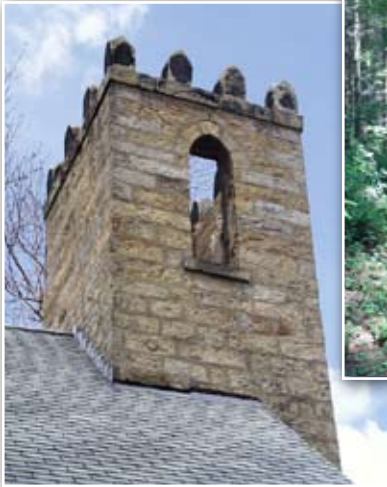
Try framing your picture with foreground objects to add depth to the image.

Frame your subject in the scene



Pay Attention to Lines

Curves, straight lines, and diagonals add energy and movement to your compositions. Watch for natural geometric patterns and place yourself at an interesting angle to them.



Let roads and rivers draw the viewer into the image or lead the viewer's eye in a specific direction.

Don't let lines unintentionally throw your photo off balance. When you shoot the horizon or a building, keep the straight lines level—unless you're shooting at a dramatic, intentional angle.



Avoid Mergers

As you position yourself to take your photo, look out for trees, lamp posts, cans, volleyball posts, and other background objects which might merge with your subject in unfortunate ways.



Reposition your subject or yourself to avoid mergers

Look for Interesting Reflections and Shadows

Reflections and shadows lend a touch of artistry to an otherwise plain picture. They can provide meaningful contrasts (such as an old building reflected in a modern high rise) or depth (such as the shadow of trees along a wooded path).

Now That You Have Learned the Rules...

don't be afraid to break them!

Sometimes the best shots don't follow these rules. If you really concentrate on taking good photos, you'll do just that. Take lots of photos because we can delete the ones that didn't turn out well, or were out of focus, or just wasn't appropriate for others to view. Thanks for helping!



Shadows and reflections add depth and artistry