

[Composition]

Assignment 10: Framing - Shooting Through

This is the first of two assignments for Lesson 4: Framing. You can find a pdf of the lesson in the Photography Lessons Pdfs folder. You can also find the corresponding video (Lesson #4 Video) online, on the Foto Finch Members Page. If you haven't watched the video or read through the lesson yet, please do so before continuing.

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In the last lesson, we talked about framing, **using things around you to "frame" your subject.** This tells your viewer what your picture is about. **There are two ways to do this - shooting your subject THROUGH something and PLACING your subject INSIDE of something.** For this assignment we'll look at the first way. Remember that when you use framing in this way, you might ask your subject to move to a certain spot or you might move yourself to get the shot you want.

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Let's look at the examples from our lesson. For each one, answer this question: What did the photographer shoot through to frame the subject?





Here's your shooting assignment:

1. For this exercise, choose a place to do your session outside, during the day. Remember that you'll be shooting your subject through a part of your setting. In the examples above, the photographer shot through monkey bars on a playground, a steering wheel on an old train car, and even people. Think about places that might have interesting "frames."
2. You'll need a live subject to photograph for this assignment. This can be a person, small group of people, or even a pet.
3. Look at your surroundings to and find "frames" to shoot through. This can be almost anything. When you use things around you as frames, you have to think about how you as the photographer should place yourself. Like in the last picture above, the photographer actually climbed the ladder of the monkey bars and pointed her camera down through the bars to see the boy's face. Where should you stand? Do you need to get up high? Super low to the ground? Pick what you want to use to frame you subject and then decide where you should stand to photograph them.
4. Position your subject where and how you want them for your picture.
5. Position yourself where you need to be to shoot through your "frame."
6. Look through your viewfinder and compose your shot.
7. Take a picture!
8. Okay, for that first shot, we focused on the frame - finding and using it to make your picture interesting. Now, without moving, look through your viewfinder again. This time, watch your subject. What are they doing? Are they happy? Sad? What do you think they're thinking about? Give them a minute to get comfortable.
9. As you watch them, think about what you want your next picture to look like and get it ready. Remember to still use the "frame" from your first picture, but focus more on the subject you're photographing.
10. Take a second picture.
11. Pick a different part of your setting to use as a frame.
12. Have your subject move to where you'd like them for this second set of images.
13. Move yourself where you need to be to shoot through your "frame."
14. Encourage your subject to be comfortable. You might even give them some instructions. Like if you're on a playground, you might say, "Go ahead and swing on the swings," or whatever makes sense in the setting you're in. A lot of times, the person you're photographing will look more comfortable in the picture if they're busy doing something they like!

15. Remember, you are the photographer! With everything going on around you, it's your job to look at what's in front of you - the subject and the setting - and put them together in a way that makes your pictures more interesting. This is really what composition is all about!

Look through your viewfinder and get your shot ready. Make sure the "frame" is positioned how you'd like it. Then watch your subject. Wait until you see something you want to capture - an interesting way their body is positioned, an expression on their face. etc.

16. Take a picture!

17. Let your subject continue what they're doing. (Swinging, climbing, sitting still). Just encourage them to be comfortable.

18. Look through your viewfinder and compose another shot. Remember to use your "frame" and then focus on your subject.

19. Take one more picture.

20. Download or develop your images.

21. Print them. You should end up with four total.

22. Place them behind the correct label in your photography folder.

23. Share your images!