

# [ Rules of Composition ]

## Assignment 13: Negative Space

This is the shooting assignment for lesson 7: Negative Space, found in the Photography Lessons folder. If you haven't read it yet, please do so now.

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In the lesson we learned that using negative space in your image means that you **fill a lot of the frame with part of the background that is the same color or shades of the same color**. This creates the feel of an open, even canvas. The shape of the subject breaks up this evenness and draws the viewer's eye directly to the what is important in the photograph.

Let's take another look at the examples from the lesson:









Let's get into the shooting assignment:

1. For this exercise, find an outdoor location with a wall that is all or mostly one color. You'll need to shoot during the day when there is plenty of light.
2. You will be photographing a live subject for this exercise. This can be a family member, a friend, or even a pet. Make sure to ask someone you are comfortable with as this assignment will require you to photograph them up close.

#### Shooting in Manual - Settings Starting Point:

ISO - 200  
Aperture - f/11  
Shutter Speed - 1/400

Remember that this is just a starting point for your settings. Begin here and adjust as needed.

3. Position your subject in front of the wall and have them sit or stand in a comfortable position.
4. Step back from your subject by no more than 5 feet, and look through your viewfinder to compose your shot. For this image, **fill the majority of the frame with your subject's face, head and shoulders. This is called a headshot.**

5. Interact with your subject. If you are photographing a person, ask them questions, talk with them, give them some direction. Part of photographing people means making sure they are comfortable and encouraging the expressions you want to capture.
6. When you see what you'd like to capture, take a picture.
7. Step back again so that you are 10-15 feet away from your subject.
8. Look through your viewfinder again and compose your image. This time **fill your frame with with your subject's entire body. This is called a full body shot.**
9. Take another picture.
10. Step back again so that you are 20-25 feet from your subject.
11. Look through your viewfinder. For this picture, include your subject's entire body and a good portion of the wall. Purposefully use the negative space in how you compose your shot. You can place your subject in the center of your frame, or have them move around. This is a good opportunity to use the Rule of Thirds to add even more interest to your image.
12. Repeat steps 3 - 11. This time, focus on interacting with your subject, making sure they look and feel comfortable. Try to get different facial expressions - happy, thoughtful, serious, goofy, etc.
13. Download or develop your images.
14. Print them. You should have 6 images total.
15. Place them in your photography binder behind the correct label.
16. Share your images!