




[Rules of Composition]

Lesson 7: Negative Space

The last rule of composition we'll be looking at is called negative space. When using this concept, the photographer usually fills 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.

In the picture below, a woman and her children are standing in front of the ocean. The photographer filled much of the frame with the open sky and sea. The shape of the subjects break up the space which draws the viewer's eye. Composing the image in this way gives the sense that the subjects are small and the surroundings are big. It also helps to tell the story of the image.





Let's look at a
few more examples.

In each of these pictures, the
viewer's eye is drawn directly
to the subjects because their
shapes break up the open or
negative "space."

Notice too how whatever fills
that space is all the same color
or close shades of the same color.

This helps make the space
surrounding the subject look
even and open.



Alright, now that we've
looked at some examples,
let's try using
this rule of composition in
your images. Go to the
Shooting Assignments folder
to get started now.

.....

Assignments for this lesson:

Assignment 13: Negative Space

