

# [ Composition ]

## Lesson 4: Framing

Think about a picture frame. Do you have one in your house? What shape is it? What's inside of it? When you hang a picture frame on the wall, you usually put something special inside it, right? Something you want people to look at.

Framing is rule of composition where **you photograph your subject inside part of your setting, you "frame" your subject.** You can use buildings, objects, anything - even people! **By framing your subject, you are telling the viewer what (or who) your picture is about.**

**Framing can be done in two ways: shooting through something, and placing your subjects inside of something.**

When you shoot through something, you can move your subject to where you want them to be, or you can move yourself so that you can see them through the part of the setting you want to use as a frame.

When you frame your subject by placing them inside something, you usually have to move them or place them there on purpose.



Let's take a look at a few images where the photographer  
SHOT THROUGH something to frame their subject:

This family picture uses framing in an interesting way. The photographer placed the boys exactly where she wanted them and then moved herself to where their parents' arms would make a "frame" in the picture. This helped to tell the story of their relationships!





This was taken during part of a wedding ceremony. As the bridesmaids walked by, the photographer used a gap between them to frame the couple. This is also a good example of how framing can help tell the viewer the story of an image.



Here are a couple more  
examples of shooting  
through something to frame  
the subject.

In these pictures, the  
photographer didn't tell  
the subject where to stand.  
She watched them and moved  
herself so she could  
capture them through part  
of the setting.

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Through a steering wheel on  
an old train car:



Through monkey bars  
at a playground.



Now let's look at examples where  
the photographer PLACED THE  
SUBJECTS INSIDE SOMETHING to  
frame them.

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Doors make an easy "frame"  
since they are already a box or  
rectangle shape:





The red color in this garage door became the perfect frame in this setting.

This picture also uses lines and the Rule of Thirds!



Here the photographer used  
the rectangular shape of  
the window to frame the  
lady and make this picture  
more interesting.



In the next picture, the photographer used three frames:  
the actual car door, the side mirror, and the reflection of the car window!



Ready to use framing in your photographs? Take a look at the What's Next box below to see what activity and assignments we'll be using to explore this rule of composition!

What's Next:

**Framing Activity**

**Assignment 10 - Framing: Shooting Through**

**Assignment 11 - Framing: Placing Inside**