

Photography Composition - The First 19 Rules

	Rule of Thirds Position subject on the crosshairs		Framing Frame subject with surrounding objects - buildings, people, trees
	Repetition Look for repeating objects - pile of fruit, row of poles etc		Leading Lines Road, rails, lines of lampposts, buildings etc leading to subject
	Negative Space Leave space for subject to move into		Colour Use complimentary or opposing colours in background
	Balancing Elements Balance background interest with foreground subject		Differential Focus Subject in sharp focus to guide the eye
	Symmetry Half of the image is a mirror of the other half		Patterns Look for naturally occurring & constructed patterns
	Depth (layers) Position subject in front of and behind objects to create 3D depth		Depth of Field Blur background &/or foreground to separate your subject
	Viewpoint Photograph from different angles - get low, get high		Triangles & Diagonals Look for diagonals in a scene, create triangles
	Fill the Frame Get in close and fill the frame with your subject		Simplicity Cut out distractions - get close, blur background, darken background
	Left to Right Rule Moving subjects should go from left of frame to right of frame		Rule of Space Leave space around your subject
	Rule of Odds Look for odd numbered design elements - 3 arches, 5 windows etc		

Learn the rules, use them, combine them. Then learn to break them for effect.