**Unit 2 – Composition Study Guide**

**ELEMENTS**

**Visual Elements:** The Visual Elements of line, shape, tone, color, pattern, texture and form are the building blocks of composition in art.

**Line:** Vertical, horizontal, curved

**Lines and curves:** These can create a static + motionless image, or a dynamic image suggesting movement. They also create a sense of depth!

**Shape**: external form or appearance characteristic of someone or something

**Geometric** **Shape**: don't often appear in nature.

**Organic Shape**: are associated with plants and animals.

**Texture**: You can only see texture with the right light. It’s the perceived surface.

**Pattern**: repeating unit of shape or form

**Repetition**: Repeating a certain size, or shape or color adds strength to the overall image.

**Color**: attributes such as value, hue, and saturation.

**Value Contrast**: Contrast between your subject and its backdrop helps a subject stand apart from its surroundings.

**Form**: “3D-ness”: the difference between light and shadows gives a better illustration of the depth of an object

**Negative Space**: the space between, within and surrounding an object in an image. The positive space is the focus of the image, the object itself, but the negative space is just as important. It shares edges with the positive space, defining the outline of the object and creating proportion

**Perspective**: establishes the illusion of a three-dimensional quality in photographs.

**Linear Perspective**: when lines converge and draw attention to depth in a photo, receding into space.

**Atmospheric Perspective**: when the image softens or becomes hazy in the distance due to atmospheric conditions.

**WHAT IS COMPOSING?**

**Composition**: Positioning elements in a specific way to communicate an idea or personal expression. “Putting it all together”

**Visual Delivery**: Putting all the elements together! Painters create it. Photographers capture it.

**COMPOSITION GUIDES**

**Rule of thirds**: In photography, the rule of thirds is a type of composition in which an image is divided evenly into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, and the subject of the image is placed at the intersection of those dividing lines, or along one of the lines itself.

**Golden Spiral**: The golden ratio, sometimes called the Fibonacci spiral, golden spiral, phi grid, or golden mean, is a composition guide. It helps lead the viewer's eye through the entire photo, leading to more captivating images. ... The golden ratio, based on the spirals seen in nature from DNA to waves, is 1.618 to 1.

**Center Framing**: Alongside the Rule of Thirds is the idea of Central Framing, where a character or object is placed in the center of the frame…or where the center of the frame is used to separate two distinct sides of the shot. These shots often utilize symmetry on either side of the frame.

**THINGS TO PAY ATTENTION TO AND/OR TRY FOR YOURSELF**

1. Keep the horizon straight
2. Get close, fill the frame
3. Try tilting your camera
4. Find frames
5. Try cropping
6. Look for symmetry or asymmetry
7. Pay attention to eye levels: different points of view of which to perceive objects inside a photograph.
   1. Normal View: the horizon line is placed close to half-way down the picture plane; looks like the viewer is looking straight-on at the composition.
   2. Worm’s Eye View: it looks as if the viewer is low to the ground, looking up at what is going on in the picture plane.
   3. Bird’s Eye View: it looks as if the viewer is hovering over top of the picture plane.