

How to Shoot Your Friends:

Roxbury Mill Photo Composition 101

Two Quick Phone Tips


Quick and Dirty Phone Tips

Tap!

You can tap the area that is your focal point to focus, white balance, and brighten or darken.

Wide Angle Distortion

Phones are generally wide angle, and anyone on the ends of groups will have a slightly wider appearance. Noses also will look bigger close up.

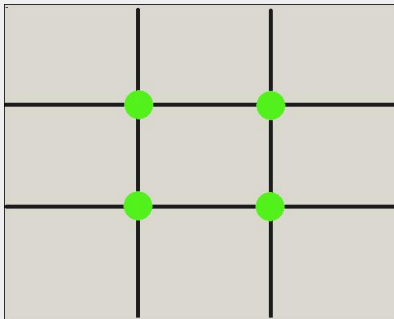


Composition

Rule of Thirds

Rule of Thirds

If you learn nothing else about photography, learn the rule of thirds. This rule, which really is more of a guideline, will help you to create more interesting dynamic compositions with your camera.



Imagine two horizontal and two vertical lines dividing your frame into nine equal sections like a tic-tac-toe board.

As a general rule it is best to keep the focal point on or around one of those cross sections.

Rule of Thirds

The focal point of an image should generally not be on the edge of the photograph, or in the very center of the frame.

Centering your pictures creates a very stagnate, boring photograph. An exception to this would be to occasionally display boredom, solitude, or symmetry.

Some cameras have a feature that keeps the grid visible while shooting.

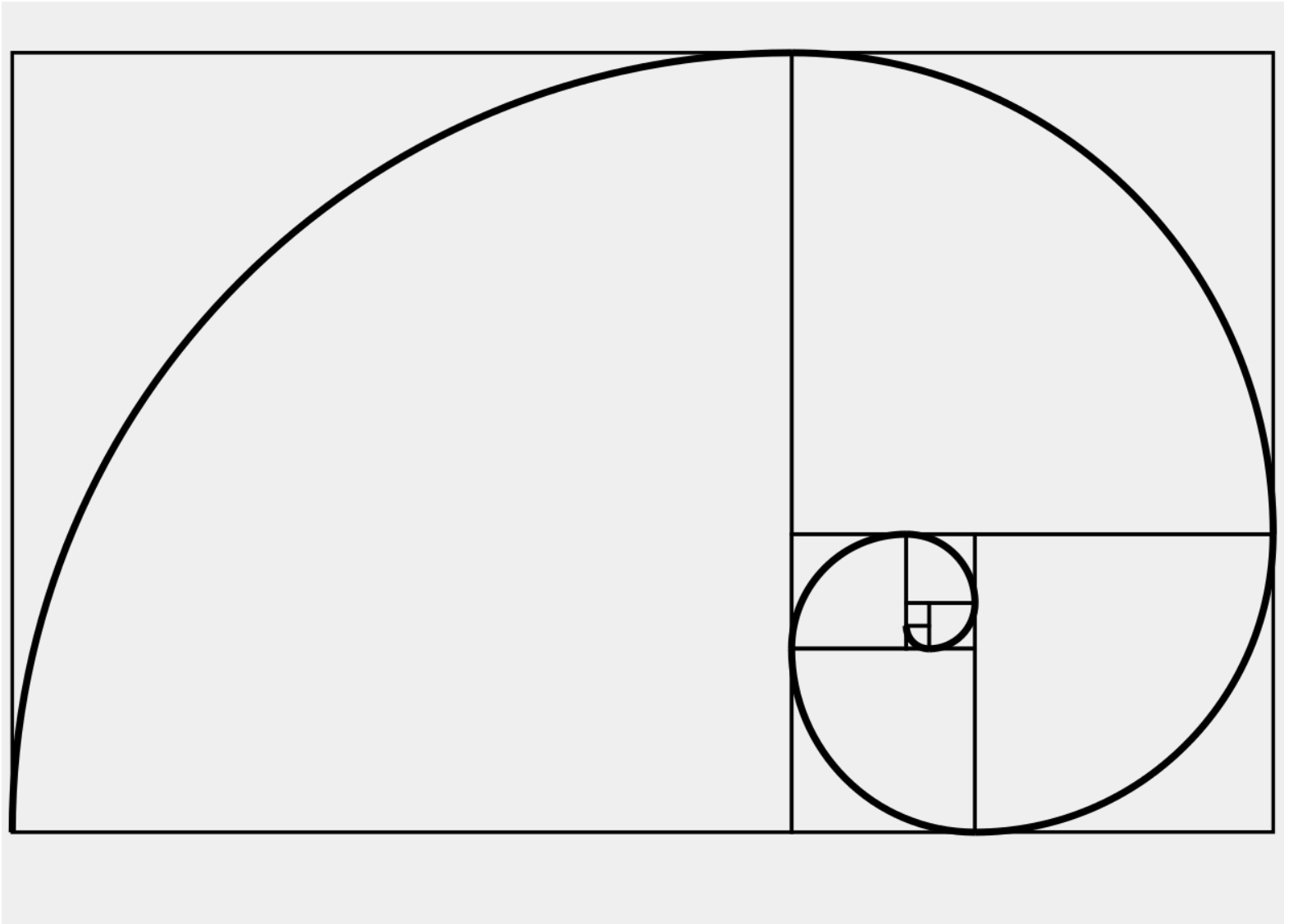








Golden Ratio





Fore, Middle, and Back Grounds

Taking photographs with foreground, middleground, and backgrounds adds interest and depth.

- ❑ Foreground is the subject that appears closest to the viewer.
- ❑ Background is what is in the back of the image or what appears to be farthest away from the viewer.
- ❑ Middleground is what appears to be between the foreground and background.



Arrows and Direction

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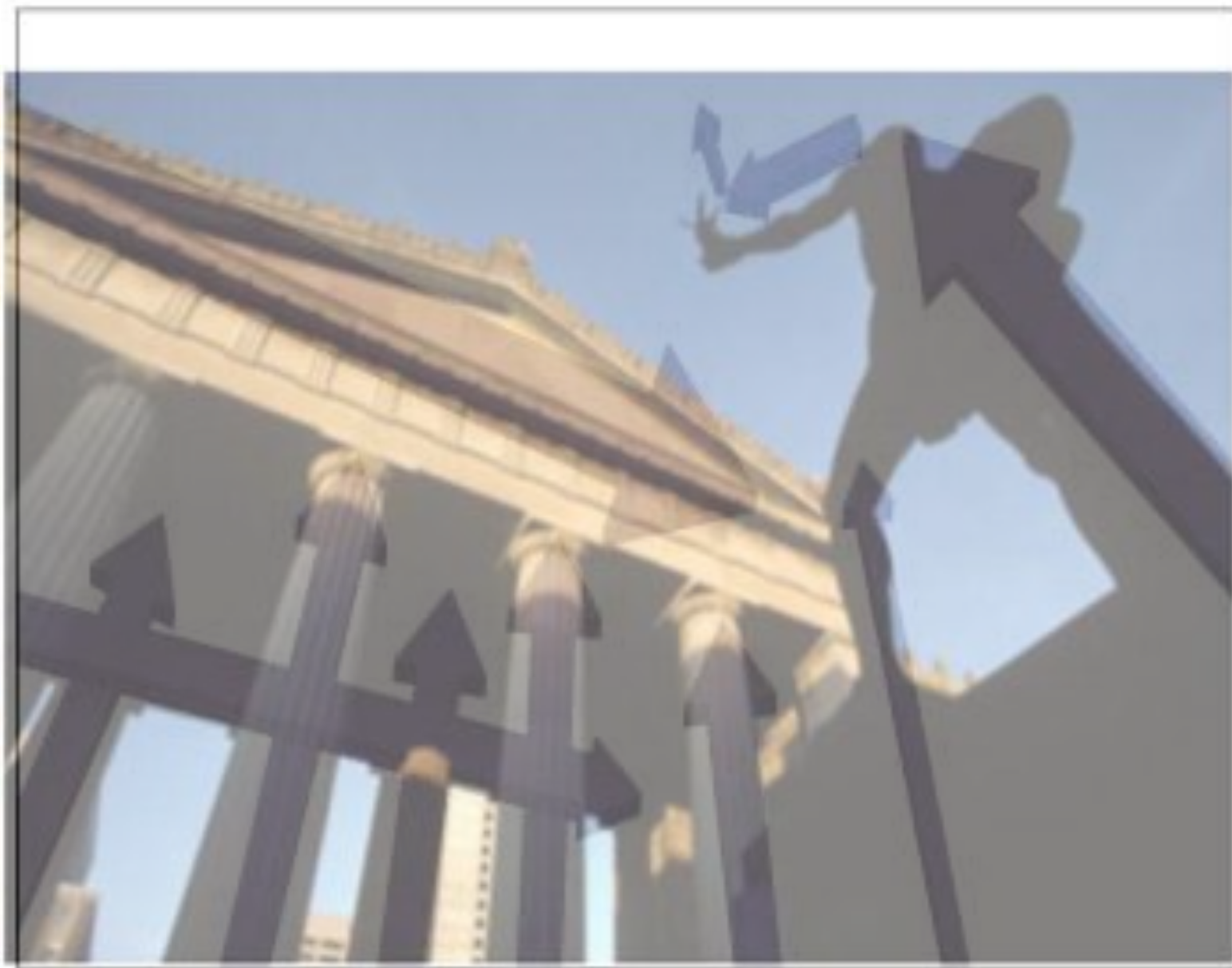
Think of objects in images as arrows.

Many things act as arrows. If a person is looking, pointing or even walking your eye will follow their direction.

Inanimate objects do this, too. Cars, shapes create arrows. If these arrows are going off of the page, your audience will be quickly lost.







Pyramidal Composition

Pyramidal Composition

Pyramidal compositions generally have the shape of a pyramid.

This type of composition not only creates diagonal lines which make your image more dynamic, but also establishes a hierarchy.







Diagonals



Negative Space

Negative Space

Negative space is defined as empty space, space with nothing in it, the space around your subjects.

While seemingly unimportant, negative space gives your audience's eyes a place to rest while emphasizing your focal point.



Negative Space

Notice how the picture on the right is rather cramped. The focal point is the trunk, as opposed to the image on the left where your eye is lead up into the sky and clouds, but still inside of the image borders.



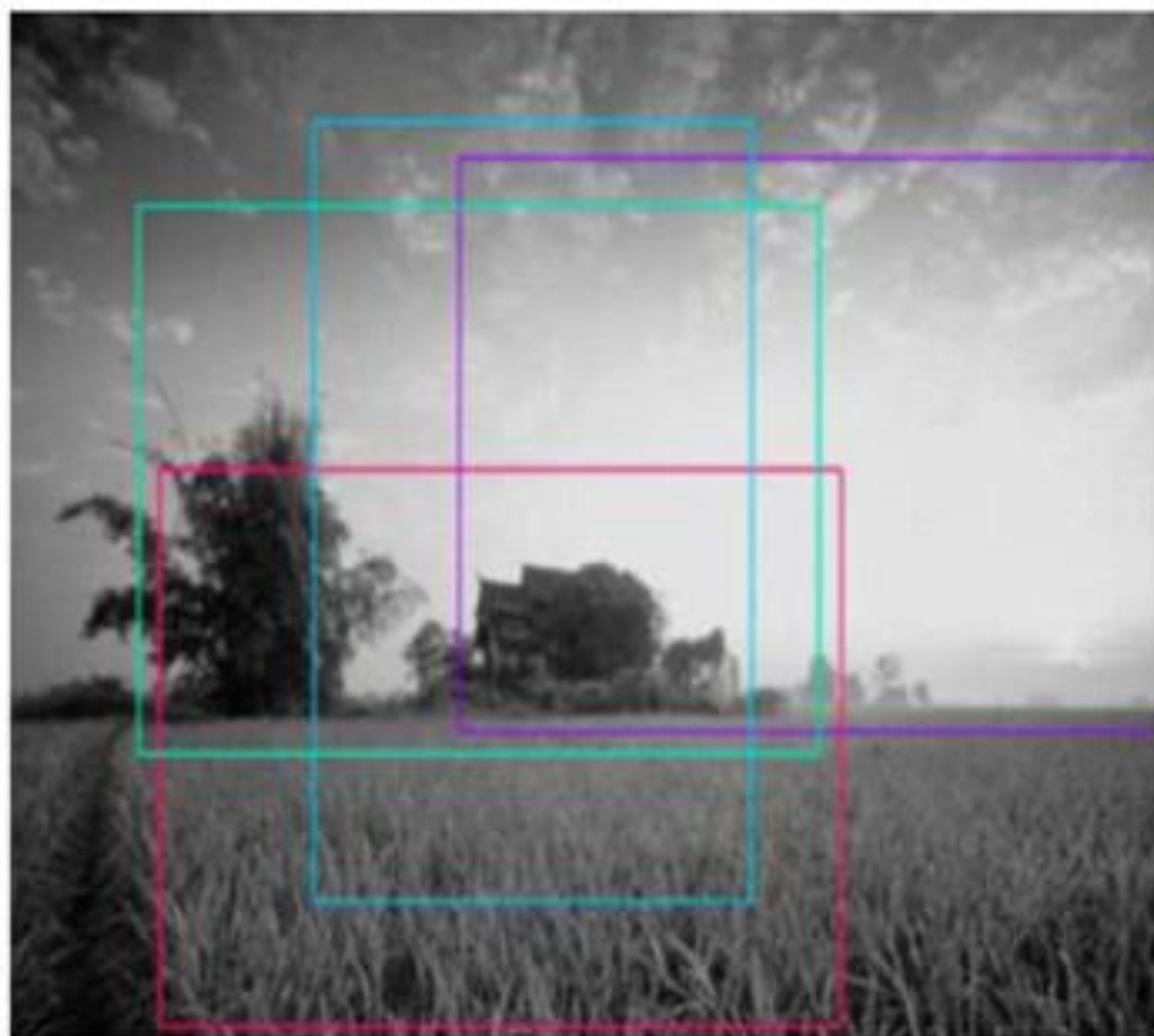


Cropping

Cropping

It is best to crop in-camera. You should do only minor cropping in Photoshop or other post-work software so you do not lose image quality. If you are unsure as to what the best way to crop a subject would be, take several different pictures and choose the best option after your session.





Horizontal/Vertical Framing

Horizontal/ Vertical Framing

Consider which format would be better for each photograph you take. As a general rule, if a subject is dominantly vertical a vertical format will be used, such as a skyscraper or a standing figure.

If a subject is dominantly horizontal a horizontal format will be used. such as a horizon or a photograph of a large group of people.

Some subjects can be photographed either way so it is beneficial to experiment with both.



Vantage Point

Vantage Point

Vantage point is the perspective from which a picture is taken. Perspective can be eye level, bird's eye view (from above) or worm's eye view (from below). It's generally good to experiment with different vantage points when shooting a subject as they have the potential to produce dramatically different results.







Surroundings or No

Include Surroundings or No

Before deciding between filling the frame with your subject and showing its surroundings consider the importance of the surroundings. You might include the environment in the frame if it shows some sort of scale (ie: a person standing next to a giant ball of twine or a miniature horse) or if it is a vacation photo with interesting surroundings. A nature photographer might show the surroundings of birds in flight, but might not include the environment around a rare bird.

Include Surroundings or No

Another example might be when photographing a baby, detail tends to be important in these shots so photographers try to get just the child, not the trash can sitting next to them in the hospital.

It really comes down to what sort of message you want to send. If the surroundings are relevant, include them. Otherwise, don't be afraid to get a little closer to your subject.



These surroundings are very relevant to the image. They tell many things about this woman. The photographer could have easily just taken a picture of her face, but felt that the surroundings enhanced the story being told.



Horizons

Horizon

When photographing the horizon, take into consideration why you are taking the picture. Don't center the horizon. Instead, try aiming your camera so that you get more land or sky (consider the rule of thirds). Is the sky exceptionally interesting or would the shot look better including more foreground?



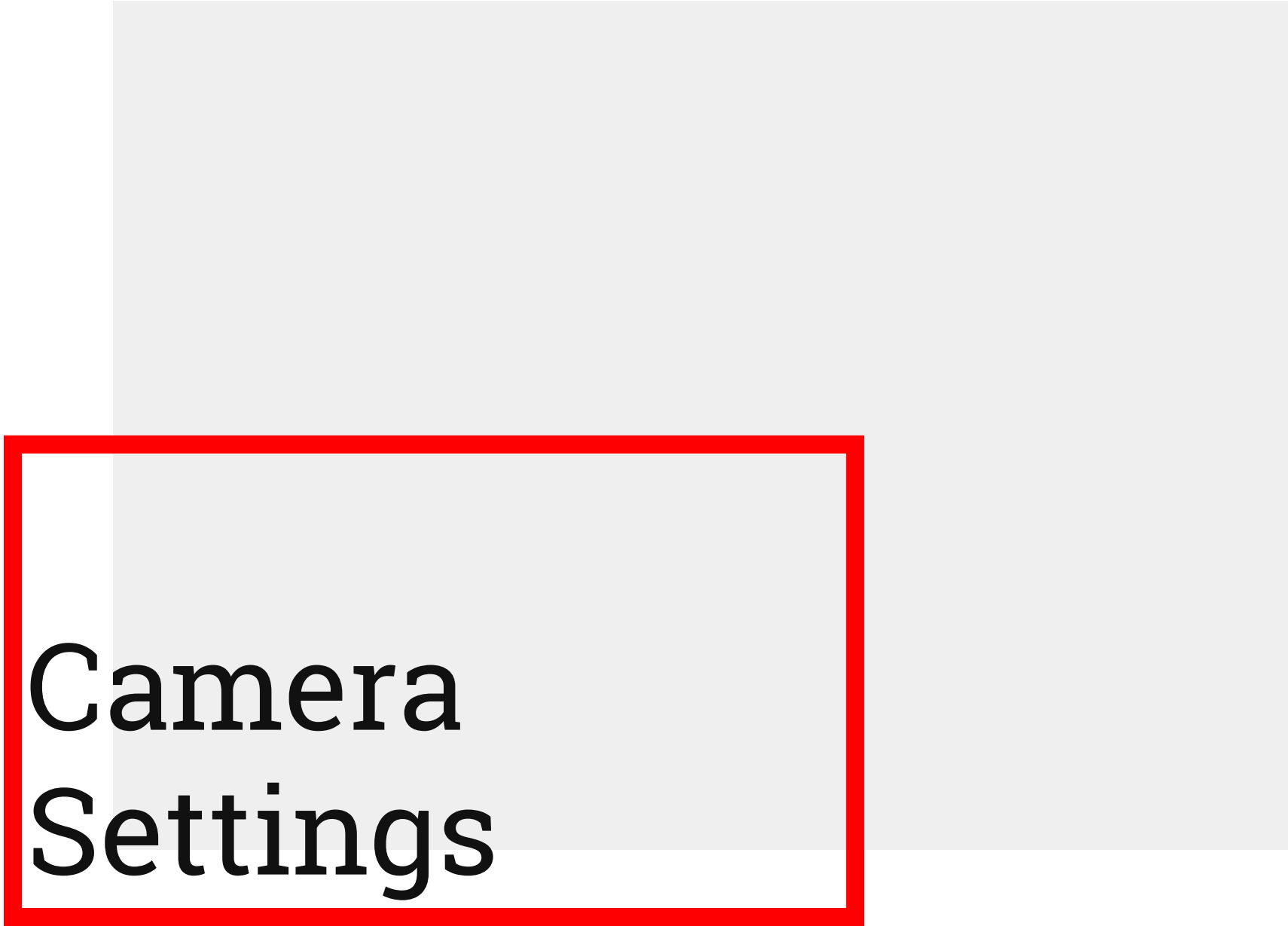
Avoid Pole Head

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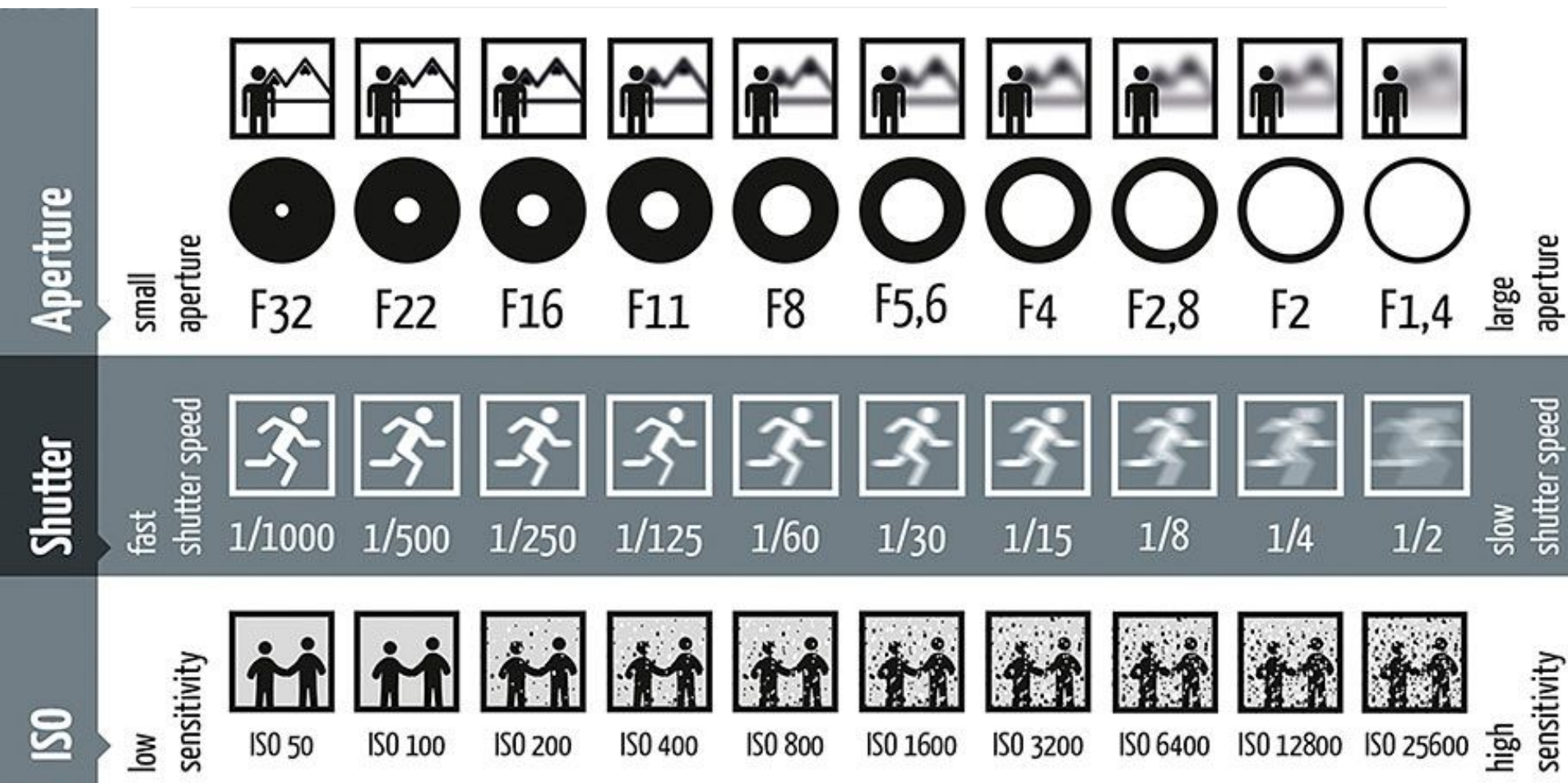
Try to avoid things lining up in awkward ways. Poles growing out of heads, buildings being worn as hats and such.

The fix to this is usually to step to one side.





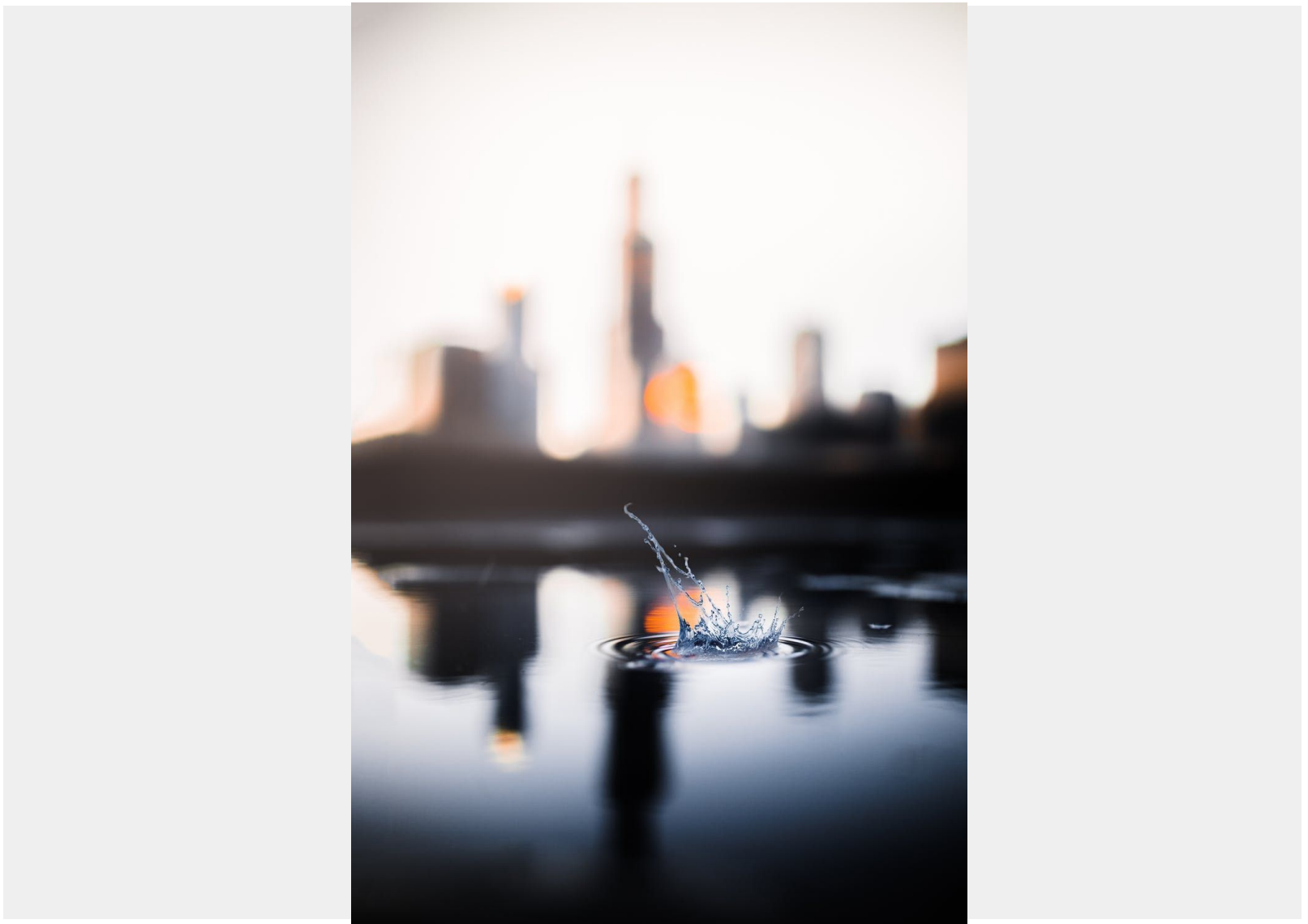
Camera Settings



<https://www.slrlounge.com/iso-aperture-shutter-speed-a-cheat-sheet-for-beginners/>

Depth of Field





Depth of Field

Depth of field includes everything that is in focus in a photograph. A “short” depth of field is where only a small portion of the photo is in sharp focus. A “long” depth of field is when most, if not all of the image is in sharp focus.

Detail in Black and White



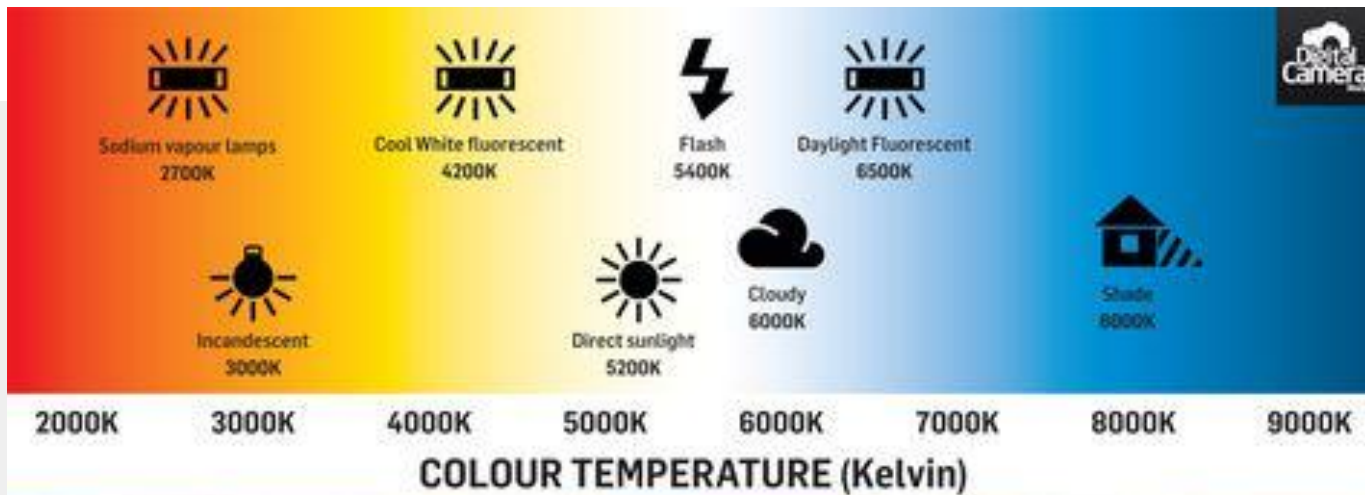


Detail in Black and White








You should still be able to see texture in both the black and white areas of your photographs.

This can be controlled through your camera settings, though sometimes you will have to choose which takes priority. Especially on cloudless sunny days.

White Balance





Display	Mode	Color Temperature (Approx. K: Kelvin)
AWB	Auto	3000 - 7000
	Daylight	5200
	Shade	7000
	Cloudy, twilight, sunset	6000
	Tungsten light	3200
	White fluorescent light	4000
	Flash use	6000
	Custom	2000 - 10000
K	Color temperature	2500 - 10000

White Balance

“White balance is the process by which you balance the temperature of the colors in the images you take. In other words, white balance corrects color casts that result from certain lighting situations. In adjusting white balance, the goal is to have the color temperature such that white appears as neutral white.”

<https://www.photographytalk.com/beginner-photography-tips/white-balance-explained>