

Lines in Composition

Diagonal

A nice dynamic method of composing a photo is to have a diagonal line running through the photo, from corner to corner or from 1/3 down from the top to 1/3 up from the bottom. The line could be a street, a fence rail, a road or a shoreline. Anything, which creates a line or division in the picture, will add interest.



Whether the line rises or falls creates different feelings about the photo. Typically, for English speaking people and others with "left to right" direction of writing, if a line descends into the picture from top left to bottom right it appears to be entering the picture. If the line rises from bottom left to top right, it appears to be leaving the picture.



You can use those concepts to create specific feelings in your picture. Such as, a person standing beside a lakeshore - if the line descends, it would suggest the person is entering the picture and thus would be, perhaps, happier and more inclusive. If the line were raising it would suggest the person is leaving and is thus more distant and removed.



Assignment I: find a location where you can use a line to run diagonally through a picture. Take at least four pictures, try one with the line descending into the picture from the left, and the other rising to right.

“S” Curve

Another dynamic composition tool is to include an "S" curve. As the name suggests, a major element of the composition would be an object such as a stream, path, railing, or other curved object that creates an "S." If the S is right facing and starts in the lower left corner and exits the upper right corner - the feeling for most English speaking people is that the picture is moving away from the viewer. If the "S" is reversed, and starts in the upper left corner coming down to the lower right, the picture seems to be coming towards the viewer. This effect is from, I believe, learning to read left to right.



Assignment II: Go out and find an S Curve to photograph. Take at least four different photos exploring right facing and left facing curves and see how they feel to you.

Requirements:

1. Take at least four of each, diagonal and “s” curve images.
2. Download your images saving them to a subfolder named “Lines” and move them to your main folder with your name on it.
3. In the lines folder, rename each image.
4. Print out your best example of each (2:5x7, color).
5. Sign and date in pencil using photographic format.

Teacher Evaluation: *Evaluation is based on completing the following activities, quality checks and degree of creativity.*

- | | Points |
|--|---------------|
| • Photograph diagonal (4+) and “s” curve (4+) images | 45/ _____ |
| • Downloaded and renamed properly. | 10/ _____ |
| • Select your best 2 examples (one each).
(Average=15 Good=20 Excellent=25) | 25/ _____ |
| • Printed correctly with (2: 5x7, color). | 10/ _____ |
| • Signed and dated properly. | 5/ _____ |
| • Assignment sheet and printed images turned in. | 5/ _____ |
| • Subtracted points for late work. (-5 for each day late) | _____ |

Total: _____

Grade: _____

