

# Symbolic Self

How do I create a symbolic self portrait using a personal object and leading lines?

- A symbol is something which represents an idea, a physical entity, or a process; but is distinct from it. The purpose of a symbol is to communicate meaning. For example, a red octagon may be a symbol for "STOP". Personal names are symbols representing individuals. A red rose often symbolizes love and compassion. **Your symbol may or may not be identifiable.**
- Leading lines are lines within an image that leads the eye to another point in the image, or occasionally, out of the image. Anything with a definite line or implied line can be a leading line. Fences, bridges, and even a shoreline can lead the eye. If one can pair leading lines with a subject that is placed according to the rule of thirds, your image should be very strong.

## Warm Up:

Find a photograph with great leading lines on the internet.

## Activity:

1. You will choose "something," preferably something of sentimental value to represent you.
2. You will place this object of meaning in at least four particular places. Each photograph you take will be a narrative because it will tell a story about you.
3. Use leading lines in your photographs to emphasize your symbolic self.
4. Write a brief description of the object you chose and how each place tells a story.

Example: This student used a goldfish to represent herself because she always felt like a fish out of water (uncomfortable). Each photograph depicts a part of her life. The top, left photo with the fish and cigarettes represents her life with a mother who smokes. The photo to the right, tells the story of her isolation and need to be alone. Below, left tells the story of a lost friend and the bottom right of her struggle to believe in the church.

