

PHOTOGRAPHY

Exercise: Snapshot vs. Planned Photograph

As a photographer, you are an *artist*. You choose when and how to use your camera. A planned photograph is a deliberate work whereas a snapshot captures a moment by chance. This is not to say that one is better than the other, rather that they are different.

When planning a photograph you must consider each of the following:

1. What is the centre of interest in your image?

"Less is more." It is usually best to have one main point of interest because a picture can tell only one story successfully. If an image contains too much visual information, the true meaning of the photo is lost.



Select uncomplicated backgrounds



Fill the frame. Move in close. Avoid including too much

2. Could you frame your subject?

To better isolate your centre of interest, you may frame the center of interest with objects in the foreground/background. This can give your picture a feeling of depth.



3. What does the camera placement suggest?

You can change the power of an image and adjust the background content just by changing the viewpoint through the three different camera angles. Shoot high, shoot low, shoot at eye level.



4. Choose an appropriate orientation.

Which looks better? Landscapes usually look better in horizontal orientation, and portraits usually look better in vertical orientation.



Exercise

1. Experiment with **camera orientation**. For each of the ideas below, take each photograph twice; one in horizontal orientation, and one in vertical orientation. Keep your backgrounds uncomplicated and fill the frame with your subject.
 - a chair against a plain white wall.
 - a subject sticking out his/her tongue.
 - the school – taken from outside.
2. Experiment with **framing your subject** in a variety of creative ways. Keep your backgrounds uncomplicated and fill the frame with your subject. Experiment with both horizontal and vertical orientation trying each of the following ideas:
 - Frame a face with hands
 - Frame a body with lockers
 - Frame a face with books
 - Frame a pair of eyes with fabric
3. Experiment with **camera placement** to achieve different creative effects. Keep your backgrounds uncomplicated and fill the frame with your subject. Experiment with both horizontal and vertical orientation trying each of the following ideas:
 - Get above your subject and shoot downward.
 - Get below your subject and shoot upward.
 - Get level to your subject and shoot parallel.

Which of these photographs did you like the best? Why?