

**NOTE: All Photo 2, 3, and 4 photo students are required to supply their own 35mm SLR Camera to use for class assignments. You must have a camera by the end of the first three weeks of marking period 1.**

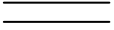
# LINES





Whenever you compose a picture, your aim should be to arrange the elements of the scene before you in such a way that they form a visually pleasing whole, so the viewer's eye is carried naturally through the scene, from the foreground to the background. This latter factor is of particular importance, as a composition only works if it grabs and holds the viewer's attention for as long as possible.


One of the easiest ways to achieve this is by including lines in a picture. A line is a mark that connects two points. It may be actual or implied, as when the eye connects a series of spots or follows the direction of a person's gaze. Humans are very inquisitive, so when we see a line our eye naturally follows to find out where it goes. If you use those lines creatively, that usually means the viewer's eye is taken on a journey around the picture, thus holding the attention. Lines give direction by moving the eye across the picture. They help create shapes when the eye completes a shape formed by a series of lines.

According to some theories, lines have psychological overtones:

 Horizontal lines created by shadows, fences, walls, hedges and the natural planes in the landscape are restful and easy to look at because they suggest repose (calm, stability) and echo the horizon. They also carry the eye from left to right in a picture.

 Vertical lines are more powerful and energetic because they suggest vertical movement (stature, strength), and the eye follows them from bottom to top. Think of trees standing sentry-like in a forest or the sides of a tall building stretching up to the sky—tension is created when you look at them.

 Diagonal lines (activity, motion) created by a river, road or fence cutting through a scene cover more ground, so they are ideal for carrying the eye up through a picture from the foreground, taking in the other elements as they go. Our eyes naturally move from bottom left to top right, so a diagonal line moving in this direction will have the greatest effect and suggest activity or motion.

 Converging lines are the most powerful of all, however, because they add a strong impression of depth. If you stand in the middle of a long, straight road or path and look down it, you'll see that the parallel sides move closer together or converge with distance. This effect can be created by using railway tracks, the furrows in a field, a river, or path. The effect is heightened if you include a vanishing point (where the lines appear to meet on the horizon) in your photo.

 Zigzag lines suggest rapid motion. Curved lines suggest gracefulness or slowness.

**Don't stop there. Lines do not exist in a vacuum. Lines (art element) must be used with one principle of design. From the list below, select one principle of design.**

## Principles of Design

Emphasis is the part of the design that catches the viewer's attention. Usually the artist will make one area stand out by contrasting it with other areas. The area will be different in size, color, texture, shape, etc.

Movement is the path the viewer's eye takes through the artwork, often to focal areas. Such movement can be directed along lines edges, shape and color within the artwork.

Pattern is the repeating of an object or symbol all over the artwork. Repetition works with pattern to make the artwork seem active and creates unity within the artwork.

Rhythm is created when one or more elements of design are used repeatedly to create a feeling of organized movement. Variety is essential to keep rhythm exciting and active, and moving the viewer around the artwork. Rhythm creates a mood like music or dancing.

Unity is the feeling of harmony between all parts of the artwork creating a sense of completeness

- Photographers will shoot one 24 image roll of color or B/W film or at least 24 digital images focusing on lines as the dominant element of art combined with one specific principle of design.
- **OPTION: If you do not have a 35 mm. SLR film camera or a digital camera, you can purchase a single use (disposable) camera at CVS, K Mart, etc. with 24 or more color images. Just have the film developed only and images added to a CD. Then you can make your own contact print from a computer. You do not have to get the color prints.**
- All images must be taken with this same combination of line/principle.
- Photographers should concentrate on making well-organized compositions.
- The photographs should use lines to take the viewer's eye on a journey through the picture and keep the viewer's attention.
- Be creative. Look for lines in unusual places. Use a different point of view to record lines in usual places.
- Notice how the lines interact with nearby objects or people.
- Consider using just lines or a subject that is enhanced or changed by lines.
- Lines must be used to communicate a message using the psychology of lines as stated above.
- Vary the effect lines have on composition by altering your camera format, either horizontally or vertically.
- Look for lines in a scene but don't always expect them to be obvious. Repeated objects can add impact.
- It is not acceptable for an Advanced Photo student to shoot the yellow or white road markings. ☹
- Lines should be used to express something that the photographer is trying to communicate like how lyrics express a feeling, "sometimes let a back road take you home."



Required: For inspiration and the development of possible solutions to your assignment, make a collection of at least 15 professional photographs from magazines or the internet. If you use books, copy or scan and print out images. These images will be used to create a resource in the altered book you will build.

Line images will be submitted in the form of a film or digital contact print during the first week of school. Contact print may be color or black and white. If you shoot color film, consider saving the images on a CD when you have the film developed.