



EduTrend Contents

W4C · DIGITAL ARTS · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Photo Composition Walk

Use the rule of thirds, leading lines and viewpoint

Ages 11–14

Level: Intermediate

60 minutes

Pairs · up to 30

Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Photo Composition Walk

Students study photos that use the rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, symmetry and unusual viewpoints. On a photo walk they capture one image for each technique, then select, crop and present their strongest photo with a short caption.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- identify composition techniques in photographs;
- apply techniques deliberately when taking photos;
- select and crop images to strengthen composition;
- critique photos using composition vocabulary.

KEY WORDS

composition · rule of thirds · leading lines · framing · symmetry · viewpoint · crop · focal point

CURRICULUM LINKS

Art and design: photography and composition. Maths: symmetry and proportion. Media studies: visual communication.

1**EXPLORE**

Look and play

2**IMAGINE**

Generate ideas

3**PLAN**

Sketch and storyboard

4**MAKE**

Create digitally

5**REFLECT**

Review and critique

6**REFINE**

Edit and share

Materials (per pair)

- A camera, tablet or phone with the grid overlay turned on
- Printed example photos for each technique
- Card viewfinders
- Access to a simple photo editor for cropping
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Turn on grid overlays on devices.
- Plan a safe route around the school site.
- Prepare example photos for each technique.
- Agree rules on photographing people.

SAFETY

Stay on the agreed route. Photograph people only with consent. Look up from screens when walking.

ACTIVITY 03 • SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Ask for three versions of each shot: moving the feet teaches more than zooming.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Hook	Show two photos of the same subject, centred and off-centre.	<i>“Which is more interesting? Why?”</i>
10–20 min Techniques	Introduce five techniques with examples; students spot them with viewfinders.	<i>“Where does your eye travel first?”</i>
20–40 min Photo walk	Pairs capture one photo per technique, three versions each.	<i>“What happens if you crouch low?”</i>
40–50 min Select and crop	Pairs choose their best image and crop to strengthen it.	<i>“What can you remove?”</i>
50–60 min Critique	Pairs present one photo with a caption naming the technique.	<i>“How did the technique guide the viewer?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Capture five photos that each demonstrate a different composition technique, then crop and present your strongest one with a justification.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The art and tech in brief

The rule of thirds divides the frame into a 3 by 3 grid; placing the subject on the lines or where they cross often creates a more dynamic image. Leading lines, such as paths or fences, guide the viewer's eye towards the focal point. Framing uses doorways or branches to surround the subject.

Viewpoint changes meaning: a low angle can make a subject look powerful, and a high angle can make it look small. Symmetry creates calm and order. These techniques are guidelines, not rules, and photographers often break them on purpose once they understand them.

Common ideas to listen for

- “The subject should always be in the centre.” Off-centre placement is often stronger.
- “Zooming is the same as moving closer.” Moving changes the perspective as well as the size.
- “A good camera makes a good photo.” Composition matters more than equipment.

Adapting the activity

Support

Focus on two techniques: rule of thirds and viewpoint.

Stretch

Create a three-photo series that tells a story using different techniques.

WORKSHEET 1

Technique spotter

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Identify techniques in the example photos.

Examples

Photo	Technique used	Effect on the viewer
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		

WORKSHEET 2

Photo walk log

Record your shots.

Shots

Technique	Subject	Best version (1, 2 or 3)
Rule of thirds		
Leading lines		
Framing		
Symmetry		
Viewpoint		

WORKSHEET 3

My best photo

Justify your choice.

Why this photo is strongest

How cropping improved it

Caption

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Identifies techniques	Applies techniques deliberately	Justifies choices

Suggested codes: W = working towards • E = expected • G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Photo Composition Walk is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Digital Arts programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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