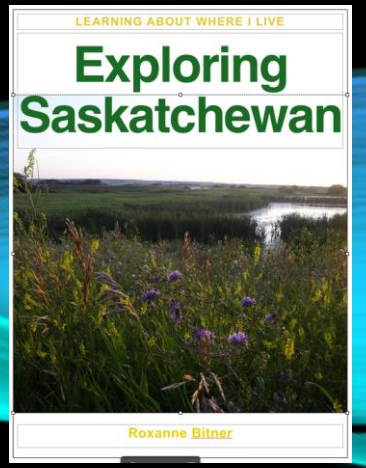
PHOTOGRAPHY

The Elements: Composition Guidelines and Suggested Considerations

Photography Classes
Warman High School



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“The only rule in photography is that there are no rules”

from *Ten Top Photography Composition Rules*

In photography, there are no prescribed rules, but the guidelines provided here can guide you to better photography practices. Experimentation is key.

Quote retrieved from http://www.photographymad.com/pages/view/10-top-photography-composition-rules

RULE OF THIRDS

- Think of the image as being divided into 9 sections made by 2 vertical and 2 horizontal lines. The rule of thirds says that the most important elements in your photo should run along these lines and/or at the points where the lines intersect.

Discuss Rule of Thirds

BALANCE

Putting your subject off center adds interest, but you need other subject matter for balance.

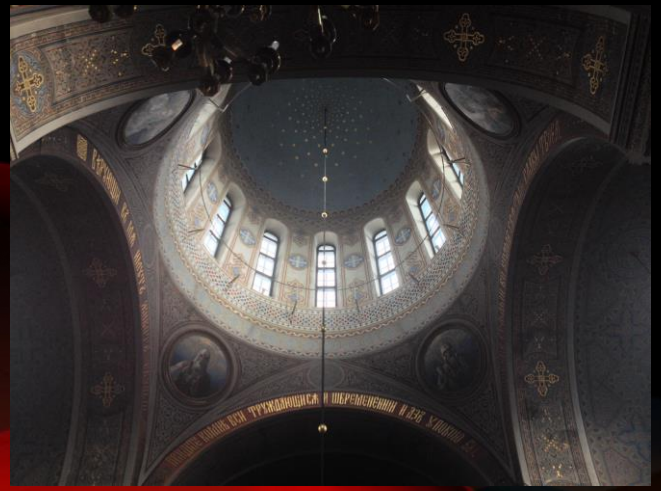
Discuss Balance

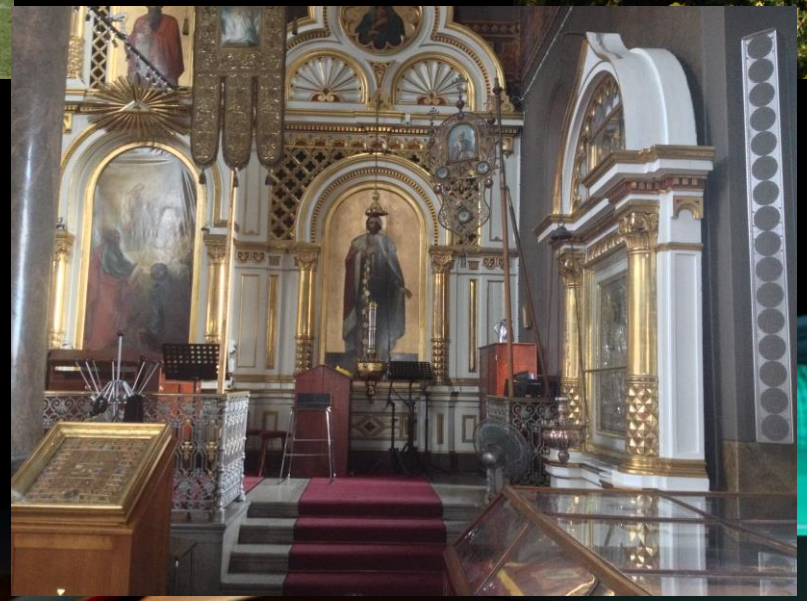
SYMMETRY AND PATTERNS

Symmetry and Patterns are all around us in nature and in person-made constructions. Look for these to make eye-catching photos. It is fun to include something that adds tension.

Discuss

Symmetry and Patterns





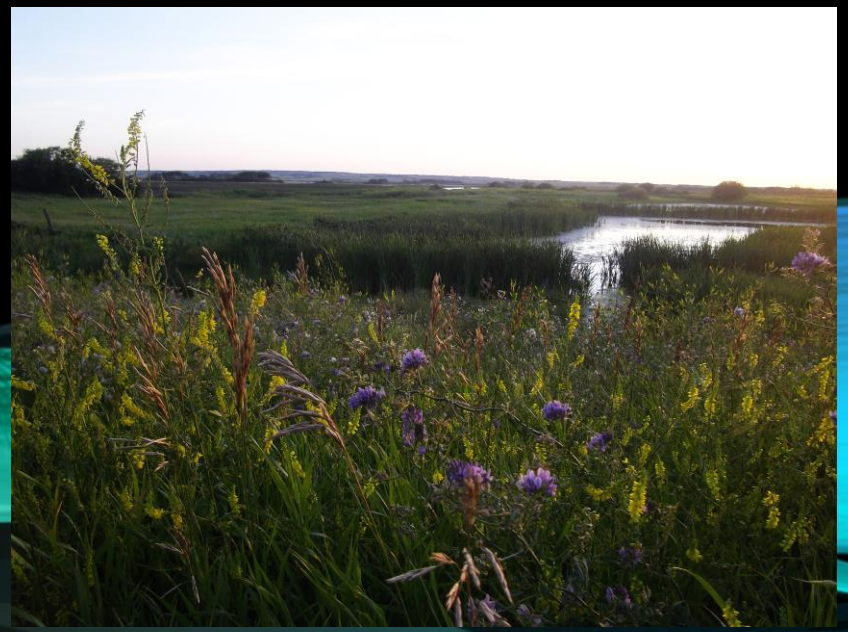
LIGHT AND SHADOW

One of the most important considerations is light. It determines mood, atmosphere, texture, and vibrancy of colour.

What is the source of light? From what direction does it come? How does the light hit the subject?

Light from behind your camera gives a flat image and casts shadows behind the subject. Light from the side shows shape with more dramatic shadows. Light from behind the subject creates a halo and puts the subject in shadow.

Experimenting with light can create some interesting photos.

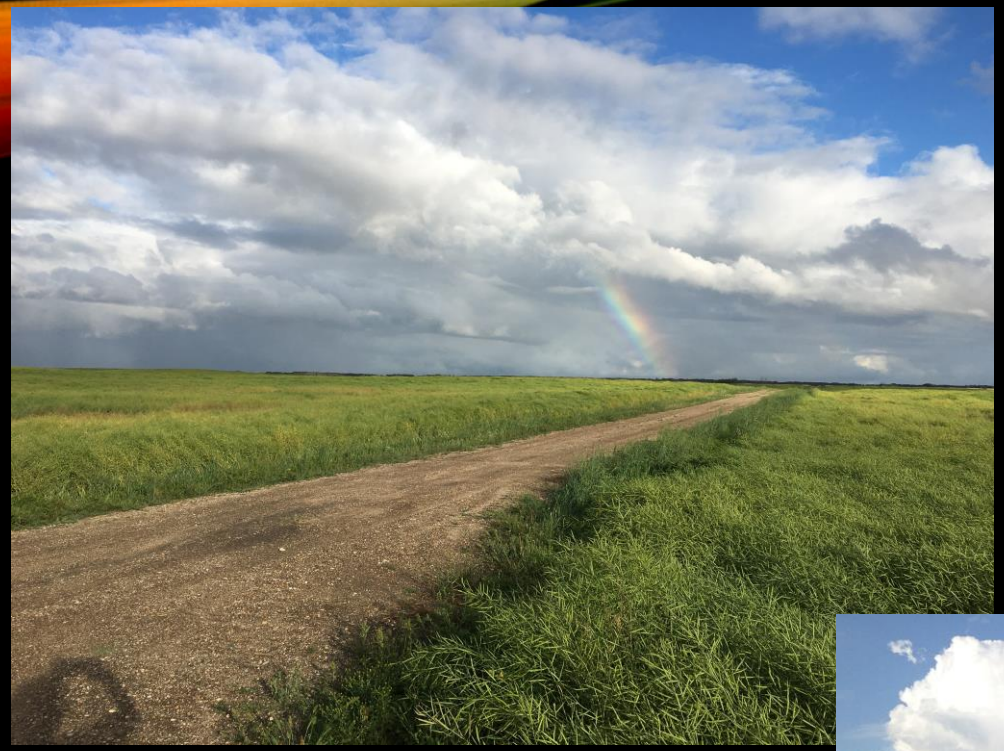


Discuss
Using Light and Shadow

LEADING LINES

Our eyes are naturally drawn along lines, so the way we choose to include them in our photos requires thought. The lines pull the viewer through the scene.

Discuss Leading Lines



PERSPECTIVE

Photographers consider a variety of angles from which a shot can be taken. Just as a story may have many versions, photographs can reveal different ways of seeing the same thing.

Discuss Perspective

BACKGROUND

A busy background can be a diversion from the focus of a photo. Frame your shot in such a way as to eliminate as much distraction as possible.

Discuss Background

DEPTH

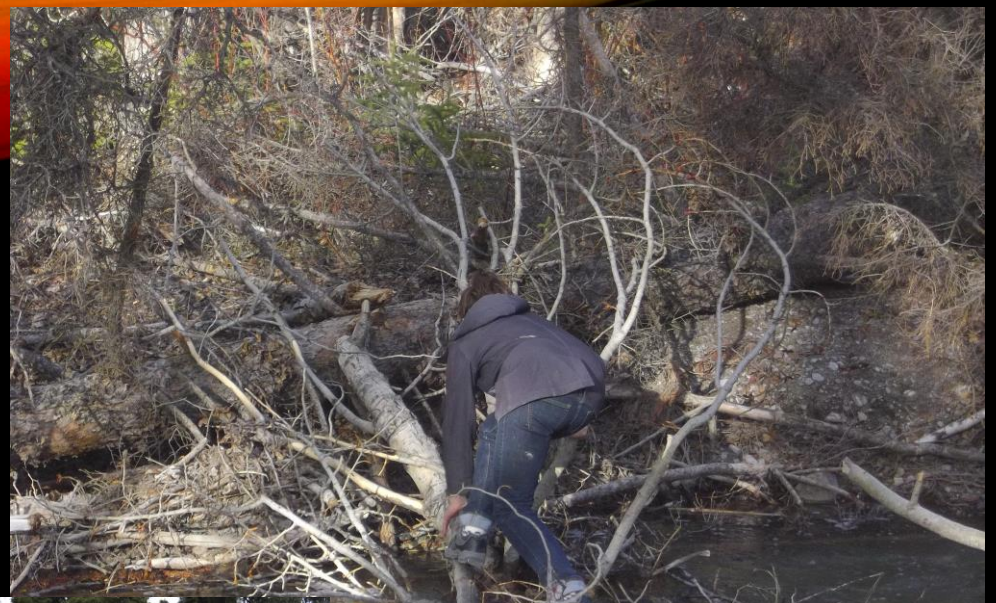
Typically, photography is a two-dimensional medium. A photographer must keep this in mind and remember to be aware of foreground, middle ground, and background. An often used strategy is to layer objects/people within the photo so that the viewer's eye compensates for the perception of depth.

Discuss Depth

FRAMING

Nature and structures often provide desirable frames for an image. Utilizing these frames allows you to draw the viewer's eyes into the focal point.

Discuss Framing



CROPPING

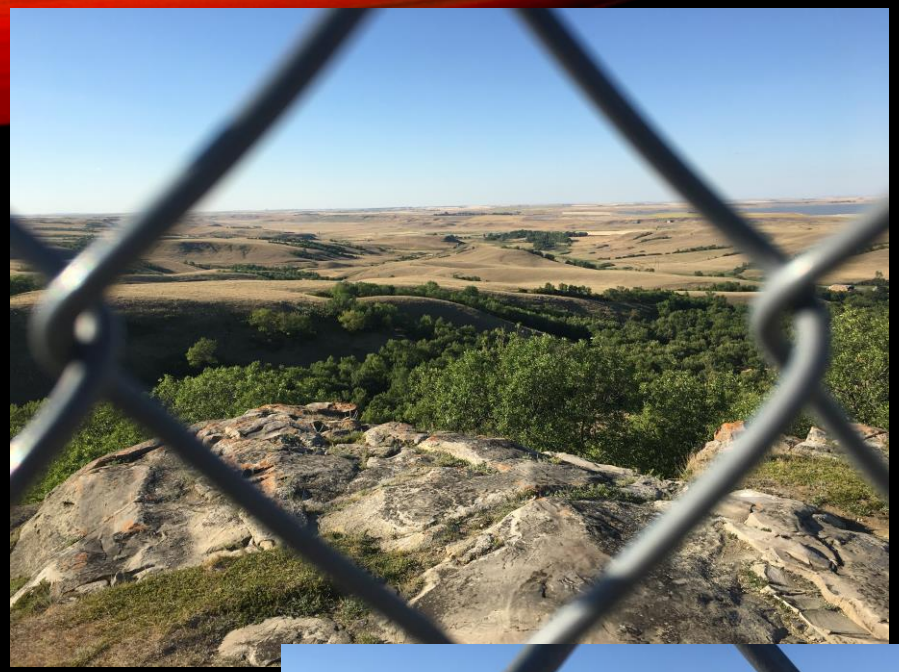
Extraneous details are often distracting. Use the cropping tool to clean up the edges and lead the viewer to the subject of the photo.

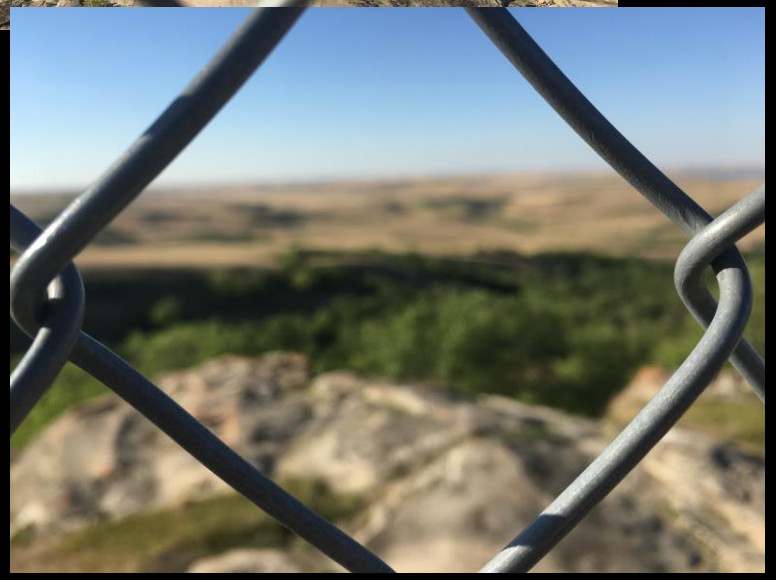
Crop
Crop
Crop

Discuss Cropping

SELECTIVE FOCUS

Use the focus tools on your camera to help you select an area of focus in your shot.



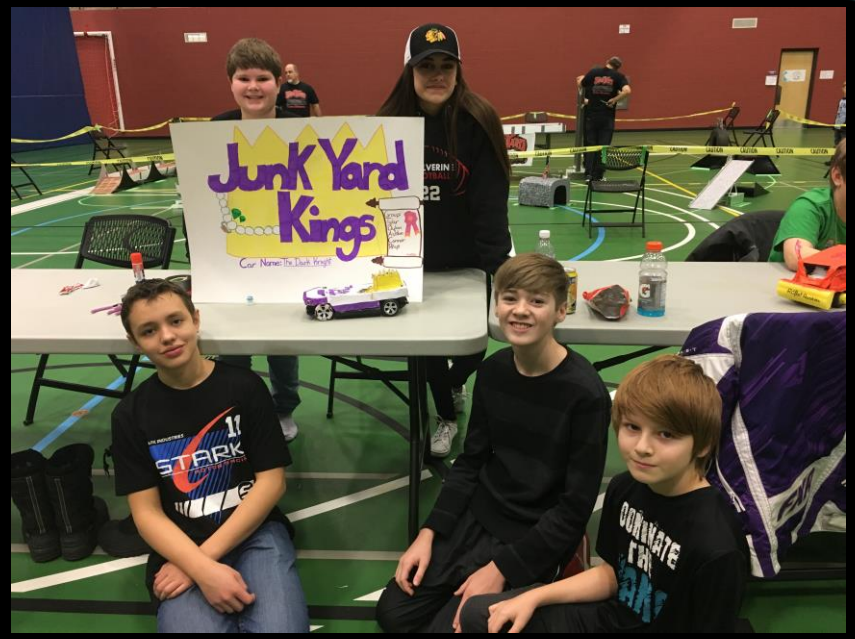


Discuss Selective Focus

LEARN THE STORY

Photographs are always more interesting and valuable if there is a story to tell. Take time to learn the story. Keep a journal of your photography adventures.

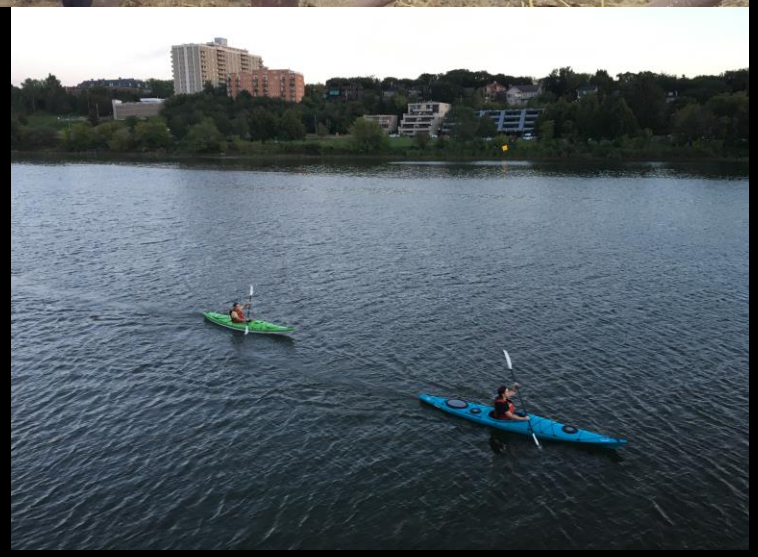
Discuss
Learning the Story



LIVE SUBJECTS ADD INTEREST

As your can tell, live subjects inspire curiosity and beg the story to be told.

Discuss
Live Subjects
in Photos



My favourite summer 2017 photograph beside Wood River

My second favourite summer photo of 2017

PANORAMICS

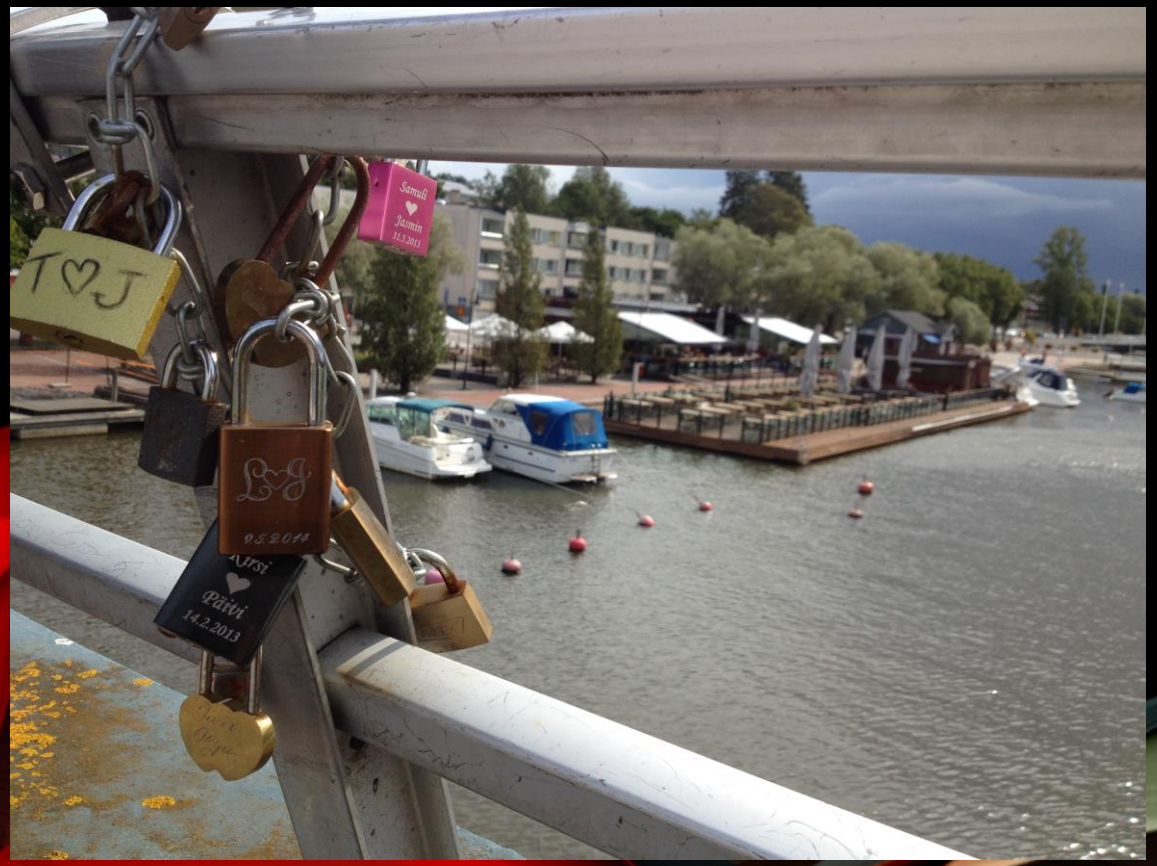
Using the panoramic feature on your phone or camera gives you the option to create banners for websites, newsletters, and brochures.

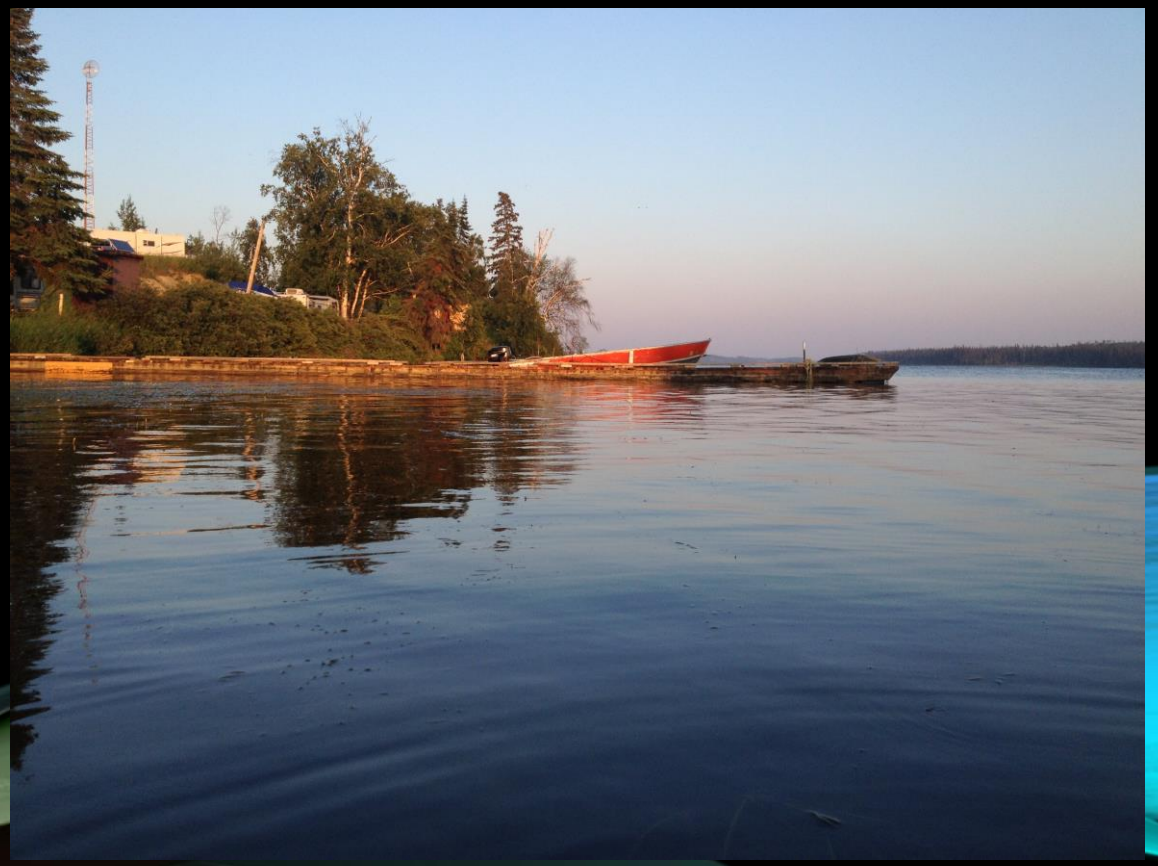
an example

MRS. BITNER'S PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

TRY NEW THINGS

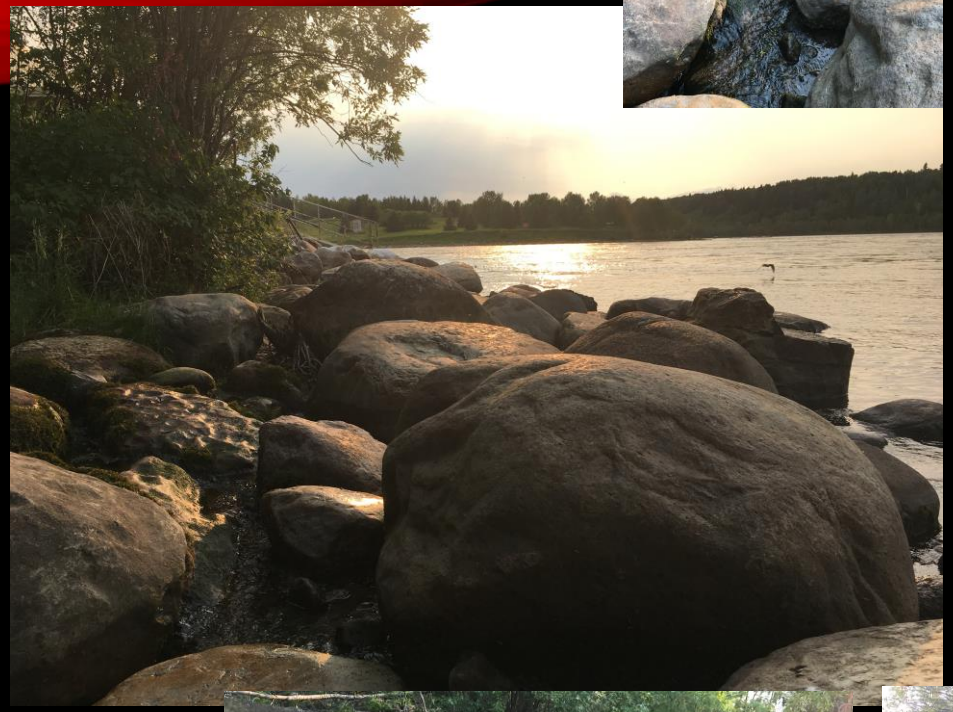
Experiment! Experiment! It's all about having fun and getting to know what your camera can do.

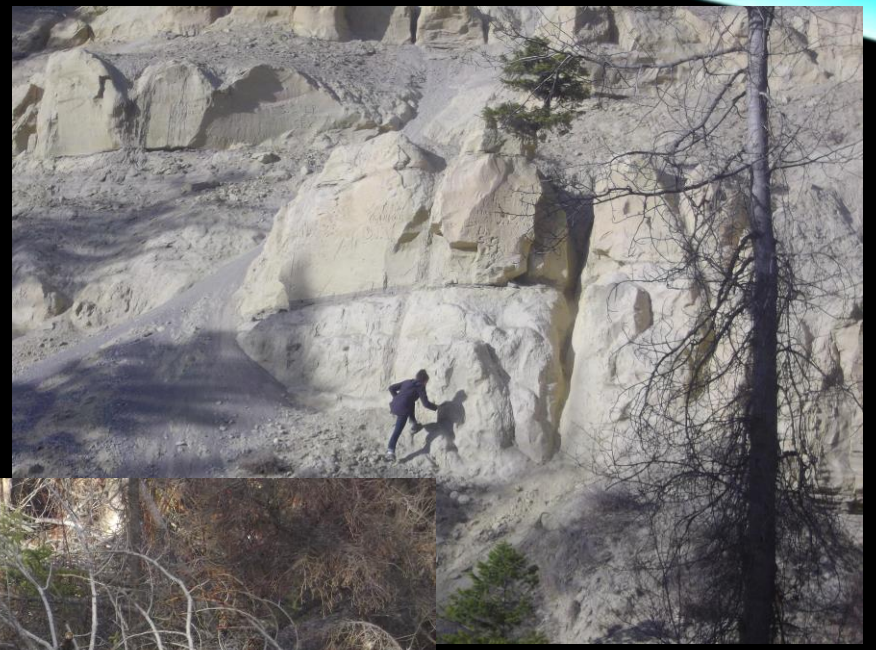


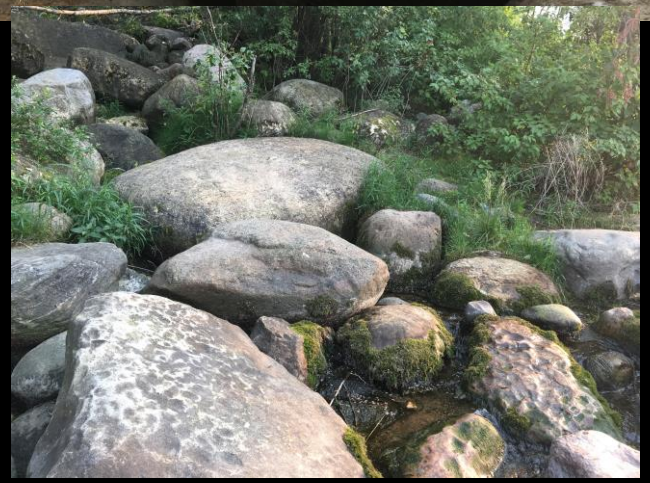


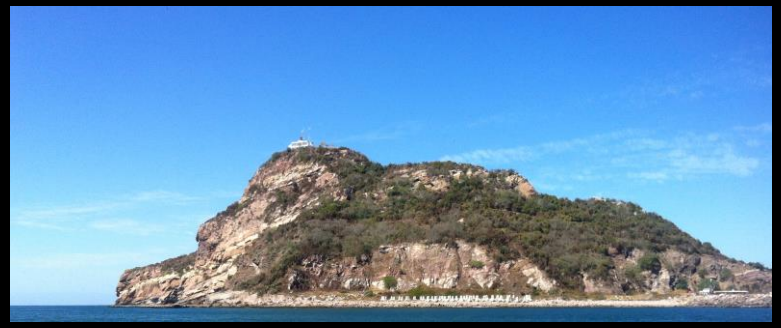
A STUDY IN ROCKS

Rocks in Nature



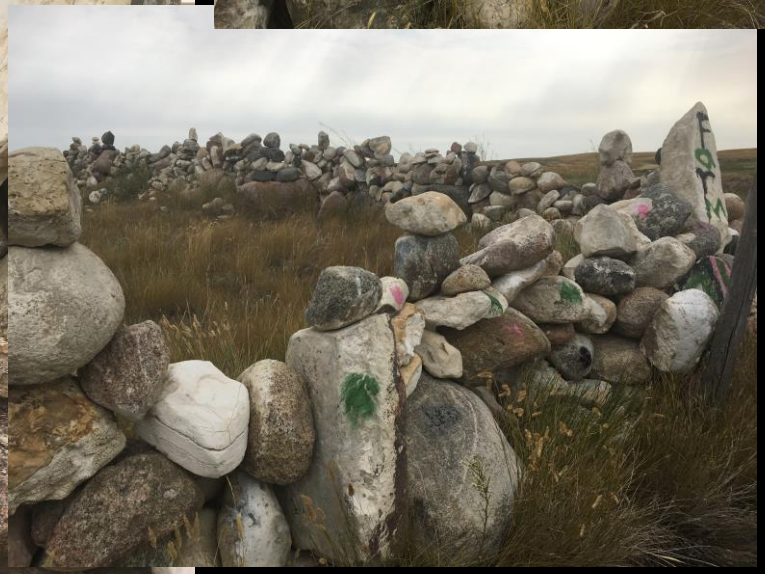






Rocks and Structures

Rock Walls



What inspires you?

LEARN TO USE EDITING TOOLS

Photoshop offers a wide array of editing tools that are only limited by your imagination. Filters allow quick changes as seen in the following variations of a waterfall photo.

Courtesy of creative commons and Pixaby

Original Photo

Watercolour Effect

Bubble Wrap Effect

Graphic Novel Effect

PROJECT PLANNING

1. Since there is no final exam in this class, your marks are based on the completion of projects and a couple of theme-based quizzes. This requires effective planning and good product from you.
2. Your assignments will be posted in the following location: MediaDrive/ClassAssignments/Photography/your grade level in course.
3. Since your teacher is new to the course (not teaching or technology or planning), assignments will be posted as they are prepared. You will be given sufficient time to complete each with the expectation that photography shots will be taken outside class time. See the course outline for the general layout of the course. Plan your time so you can be done early and/or have time to upgrade less satisfactory assignments in order to receive the best grade possible.
4. All photos must be originals, photographed by you, edited by you, and arranged by you for presentation. Any misrepresentation will result in a failing grade for that assignment.
5. Keep a journal documenting dates and locations when/where photos are taken. This must be handed in to indicate readiness for marking. Along with dates and locations, write notations about what technique you used and why you chose to use it. Record any personal, emotional, or logical response that will help your teacher understand your motivation. The journal can be in a book or written as a Word document, but diary-style entries must be made in full descriptive sentences. The student is responsible for keeping the diary intact as a body of evidence until all assignments are marked and shared with parents.
6. If you are unhappy with your posted mark, your teacher will likely permit you to upgrade and resubmit material once (perhaps twice, depending on effort). Respectful and reasonable requests will be considered.