

POINTING THE CAMERA



Before you go out with your camera, there are some important things you want to plan before you take your picture.

How you choose to make your image will determine how your viewer interprets it.

In this video, you will learn basic principles about starting to create your still and moving images.

Things to consider before you start shooting

- Focusing Attention
- Lens Types
- Camera Angles



There are important things to consider before you go out with your camera, your focus, lens type and camera angles. All these factors are connected to each other and can help you convey your message to your audience more effectively. These elements give perspective that leads to how a viewer reads content.

Focusing Attention



Depth of Field (DOF)
WORKING WITH FOCUS POINT
TO DIRECT THE VIEWER

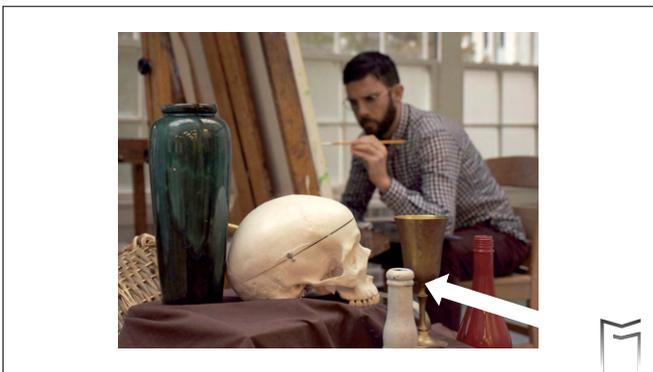


When we talk about focus in an image we use the term, depth of field or DOF. Where do you want to lead your viewers attention?

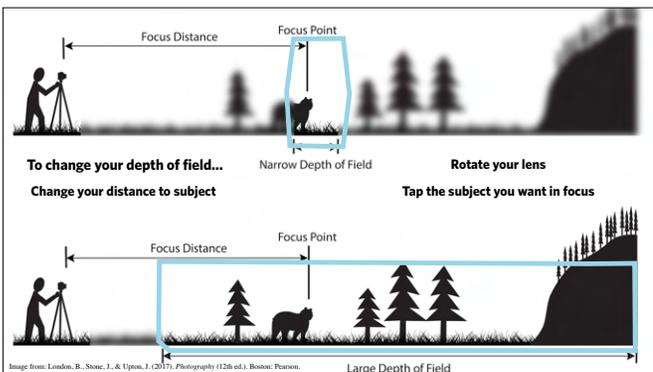
When figuring out your depth of field you want to determine your subject, know your story, and what you want to convey to your viewer through this particular image or scene.



In this image, you can see an example of the effect of a shallow depth of field working when one element in an image is in focus, like the character behind the painting, and the other objects at different depths are blurry, like the foreground here.



If we wanted the viewer to look at the objects the artist is painting, more than the artist himself, then we would ensure the objects are in focus rather than the background, as you can see here.

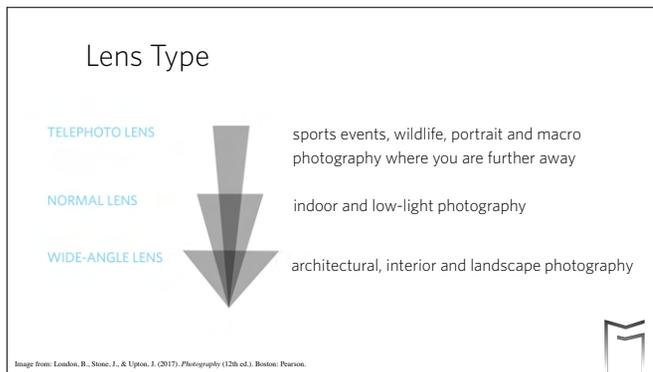


How this works is for our eyes and a lens, we can sharpen focus on a particular area in front of us, it might be close or it might be far. For a lens, the depth of the field that is in focus can be deep -therefore a lot of stuff is in focus, or it can be shallow like the images before that had areas in focus, and other areas blurry.

There are different ways to achieve a particular depth of field, you can move your camera closer to your subject for smaller depth of field, or move your camera away for a larger depth of field, this is called changing your "distance to subject". On some camera lens you can change your focus point by rotating the lens, or for your camera phone you can tap on the area you want in focus on. On many cameras the focus point happens automatically, so you need to put it on manual to control it more. Different lenses also have different depth of field capabilities.

If you want a deep depth of field, so a lot of the area in front of the camera in focus, you will

need lots of light to come into the lens for it to record so much detailed information.



There are 3 common types of lens types and they can be used for different things, they are wide-angle, normal and telephoto.

A wide-angle lens allows more of the scene to be included in the photograph, which is useful in architectural, interior and landscape photography where the photographer may not be able to move farther from the scene to photograph it.

A standard lens, also known as a "normal lens", is one which produces an image that roughly matches what the human eye sees, and looks natural to the viewer. These are general-purpose lenses, and can be used to photograph everything from close-up portraits to landscapes.

A telephoto lens is a type of camera lens designed for taking photographs at moderate to far distances from the subject. Also known as a "tele lens" or "long lens", telephoto lenses are commonly used when photographing sports events, wildlife, and in any other circumstances where the photographer can't get close to the subject. They are also popular in portrait and macro photography as they produce a pleasing, natural perspective free from the distortion caused by using a wide-angle lens.



Wide Angle



Keep in mind to do a research on the kind of camera and lens you need before shooting, for example this is a wide angle and it captures more peripheral space



Normal



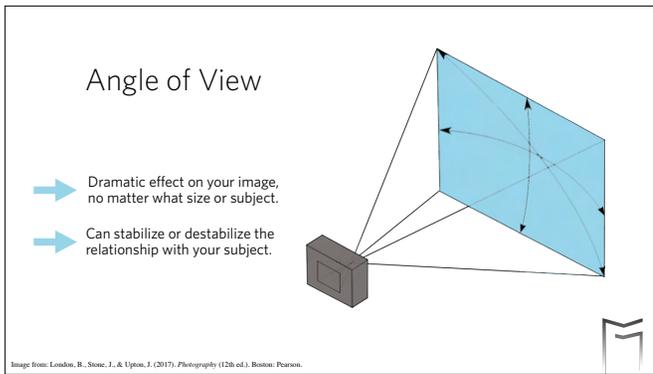
This is a normal lens, and relates to how a human eye sees a scene



Telephoto



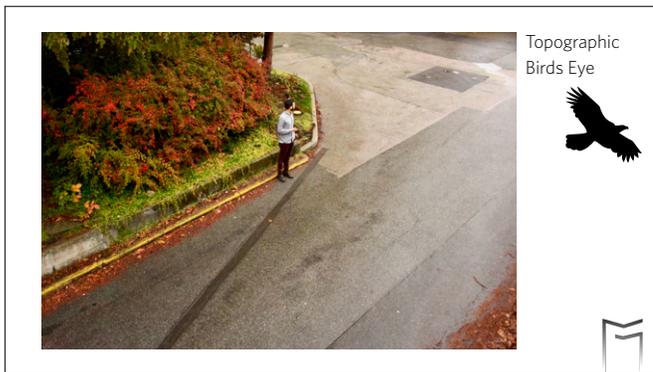
This is an example of a telephoto lens which has a long focal length, therefore it can go in closer and still capture great detail from far away.



Angle of view is the angular extent of a given scene imaged by a camera, it can be measured horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

The orientation of the camera to the subject and the horizontal and vertical angles you are shooting from have a dramatic effect on your image, no matter what size or subject. It can stabilize or destabilize the relationship with your subject, it could make someone seem like they are dominant or in an important position, on a level field as the viewer, or diminished or smaller in stature than the viewer.

There are three particular angles we will talk about here...



When photographing a subject from above, it is known as a “bird’s-eye view”. This could be taken from up in the sky, such as when flying in a plane, or could simply be taken from a window in skyscraper or slightly above your subject. Photographing from this point of view can make viewers feel as though they are superior to the subject or protective over the subject. If the subject is an inanimate object, it can sometimes make the viewer feel as though there is a separation between them and the subject.

Photographing from a bird’s-eye view can be especially effective if shooting landscapes from a drone to capture another viewpoint.



This is the most common way to photograph a subject. After all, it is typically the way we regard most subjects in our day to day lives, especially other people.

Photographing from this perspective allows viewers to feel more connected with the subject – especially if the subject is making direct eye contact with the camera. It evokes a sense of familiarity, empathy or intimacy.



Worms Eye
Low 

A worm's-eye view is a view of an object from below, as though the observer were a worm; the opposite of a bird's-eye view. It can be used to look up to something to make an object look tall, strong, and mighty while the viewer position feels childlike or powerless.



As an alternative, here is an example of a canted or dutch angle frame and how it can achieve an unbalanced or destabilizing effect on your audience because the horizon is completely angled



All the same scene though have a different effect because of the point of view of the shot. Knowing about psychological effect of the point of view will help you in taking and choosing photos which will serve your purpose the best.



MULTIMODAL PROJECTS



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
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