

# ART FUNDAMENTALS

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• Mrs. Bjork

• Room 115

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## Assignment Description: Digital Self-Portraits Composition and Lighting Techniques

Creating a great photograph that becomes a work of art and not just a selfie or snapshot depends upon a couple of important choices you make as the artist. These really boil down to two things: Composition and Lighting

**Composition:** There are six compositional techniques you can try that will greatly improve your shot if you conscientiously choose to consider them and give them a try.

1. **Leading Lines**-lines from something lead your eye into the space, could be railroad tracks, a fence, a row of houses, buttons on a shirt etc.
2. **Rule of Thirds**- divide the space vertically and horizontally into thirds. At each intersection of the third this is a point of interest and placing the subject there makes for a better photo.
3. **Level Horizon**- hold the camera level especially for horizontal compositions.
4. **Framing**- find an element to frame your subject, tree branches, curtains, a window frame, a doorway etc.
5. **Fill The Frame**- zoom in so close that your subject takes up the whole frame, touching all sides of the compositional space
6. **Point of View**-change the way we look at the object, get up on a ladder or lay down on the floor etc.

**Lighting:** Light has different colors that are not visible to the naked eye, but will show up in your photos. Knowing what to look for and how to use the light that you see will make your photos better.

### There are two types of lighting:

**natural** (the sun, moon, candles, cloudy days) **available light**- light that is coming in from a window can create beautiful results, natural light is usually white or bluish tinged. Morning light is more cool and evening light more warm.

**artificial** (camera flash, studio lights other man-made light sources). Depending on the source this light can be greenish or yellow toned. Some artificial light sources are white and mimic daylight. The light bulbs in our studio lights are this type.

