

Line, Shape and Space in Photography

- * Positive and Negative Space
 - * Squares and Rectangles
 - * Circles and Triangles
 - * S-Curve
 - * Dominant Line
 - * Diagonal and Converging
 - * Vertical and Horizontal
 - * Straight and Curved
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- A mark made by a moving point
- Has greater length than width
- Directs the eye
 - horizontal, vertical, diagonal, curvy, zig-zag, etc.
- Can be actual obvious lines or
 - the borders or
 - edges of shapes

Line Review

Straight

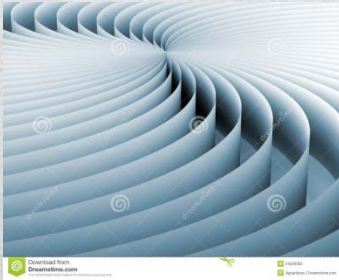
- Definition: from one point to another without leaving the plane
- Expresses stability and calmness
- Use to convey depth of space and add breadth to a scene

Curved

- Definition: line that moves in a fluid way back and forth
- Evokes a restful mood
- Can add a sense of movement to the photo
- Add interest and depth

Straight and Curved

Straight and Curved



Vertical

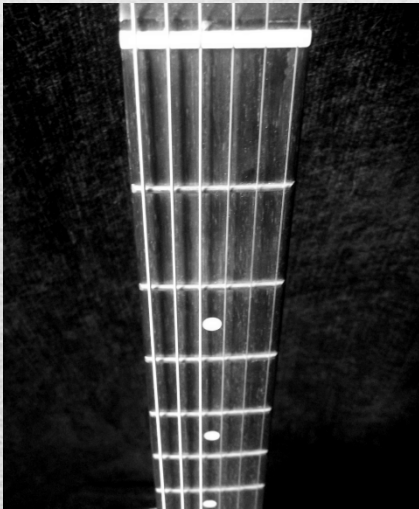
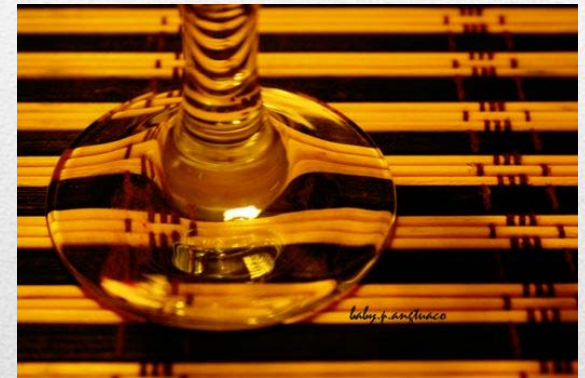
- Definition: a line that goes from one point at the top to another point at the bottom
- Convey moods like power, assertiveness, strength and growth
- Accentuate height in a photograph
- Should never be placed in the center of the photo

Horizontal

- Definition: a line that goes from one point at the left to another point at the right
- Conveys a message of rest, stability & tranquility
- Should never be placed in the center of the photo

Vertical and Horizontal

Vertical and Horizontal



Diagonal

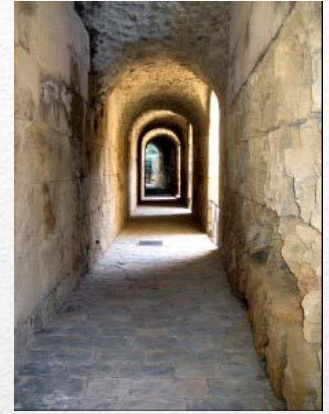
- Definition: goes from one corner to the opposite at an angle
- Can draw the viewer's eye through the photo
- Suggests depth
- Adds a sense of action and movement
- Is more striking, interesting and dramatic than vertical/horizontal

Converging

- Definition: occur when two or more lines come to a single point
- They show depth
- Act as a funnel for the viewer, drawing us through the image
- Intersecting lines create tension and chaos

Diagonal and Converging

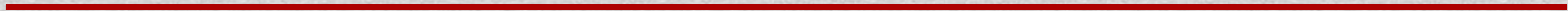
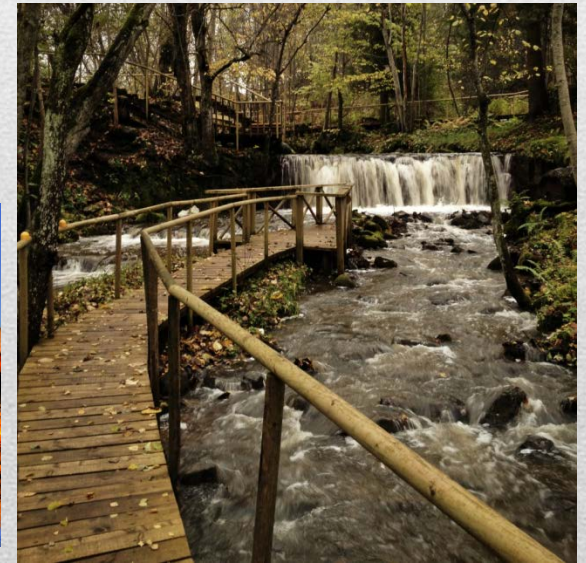
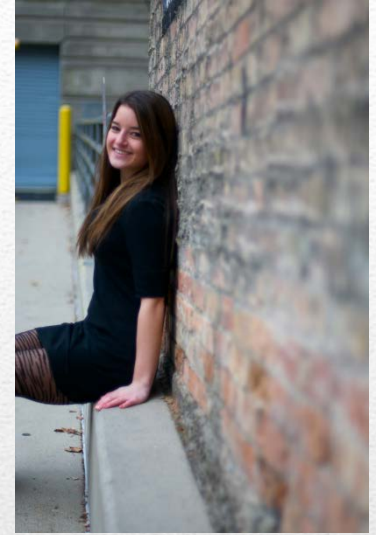
Diagonal and Converging



- Dominant Lines are an obvious and important part of the photographic composition
- Can be borders or the edge of an object or shape
- Leading lines can be used to lead the viewer to the subject
- Can create an illusion of depth

Dominant/Leading Lines

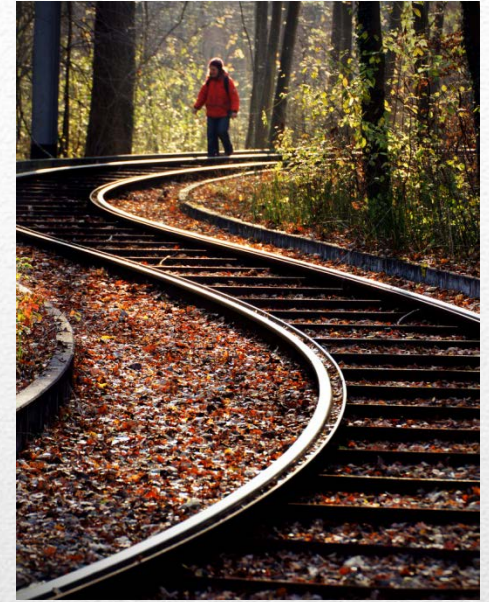
Dominant/Leading Lines



- S-Curves move through the frame in a curved diagonal direction
- They give the viewer a way to move through the image
- They are more interesting than straight and horizontal or vertical lines
- They can point the viewer's attention toward the subject

S-Curve

S-Curve



Circles

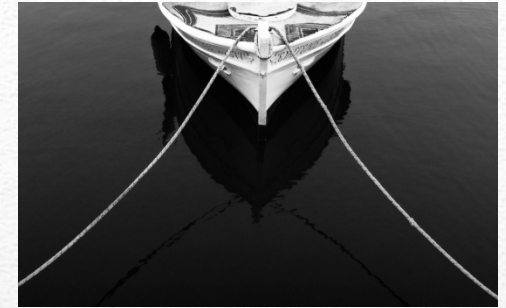
- Circles are a flat shape and Spheres are a 3D form
- Circles represent wholeness
- They give the photo a sense of unity, continuity and completeness

Triangles

- Triangles are flat shapes and Cone/Pyramids are 3D forms
- When pointed toward the sky they represent stability, endurance and strength

Circles and Triangles

Circles and Triangles



- Squares/Rectangles are flat shapes and Cubes are 3D forms
- These are found mainly in man-made objects
- Can give a sense of structure and stability to the composition

Squares and Rectangles

Squares and Rectangles



- Positive Space is the area where shape/form exist
- Negative space is the empty space around the shapes and forms
 - Can give an area for the viewer's eyes to rest or create emphasis and interest
- ALL space, positive and negative, is important to the balance and unity of a photographic composition

Positive and Negative Space

Positive & Negative Space

