



# **Composition & Your Story**

**A word from our sponsor. . .**

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# Introduce Your Self

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- Favorite subjects? \*
- How long a “photographer”?
- Why are you taking this course?\*
- Camera and lenses?
- Post processing program?
- What do you do with your images?
- Printing: yourself or farm out?

# Course Objectives

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- Enhance your telling stories through photographs\*
- Incorporate compositional techniques to aid in the process
- Create a 5-chapter, -scene series of images to tell a story
- Each image should stand on its own to tell part of the story

# Class Structure

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- Review participants' images
- Class discussion and suggestions (critiques)
- Discuss one or more compositional elements

# How Do We Critique Others Work?

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- Always with kindness and with the intention of providing helpful information and insight.
- Always feel free to disagree.
- The more everyone participates, the more everyone gains from the experience.

# Assignments

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- Create a new chapter for your story
- Specifically include the compositional element(s) discussed in the previous class, and any others

# The Photo as a Story

- 1,000 words: maybe less, maybe more
- Telling multiple story in a single photo doesn't work
- If you must explain it, the story is not clear



# Subjects that Work

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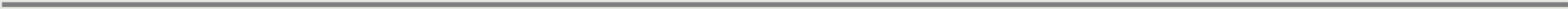
- Wildlife
- Landscape, but more difficult
- News type
- Action
  - Obvious
  - Subtle, but discernable
  - Pan
- Candid people photos
- Emotional
- Unnatural in natural setting\*



# Example Theme: Failure of Communism

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# What Will Be Your Story?

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# Why Is Composition So Important?

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# Why Is Composition So Important?

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- Creates the setting that adds to the story - it frames the story
- Isolates the subject – focuses the view on the subject/ point of interest
- Other elements enhance the story

# **What Are The Basic Elements of Composition?**

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# What are Elements of Composition?

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- Negative space\*
- Framing
- DoF
- Leading lines
- Color
- Foregrounds that set opposition or complement\*
- Blue hour
- Sunrise/sets
- ROT
- ROO\*

# Negative Space

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Negative space photography is **the area surrounding the main subject in a photo that is left unoccupied**. Put simply, it is the space around the object itself that helps define the positive space (or main focus).

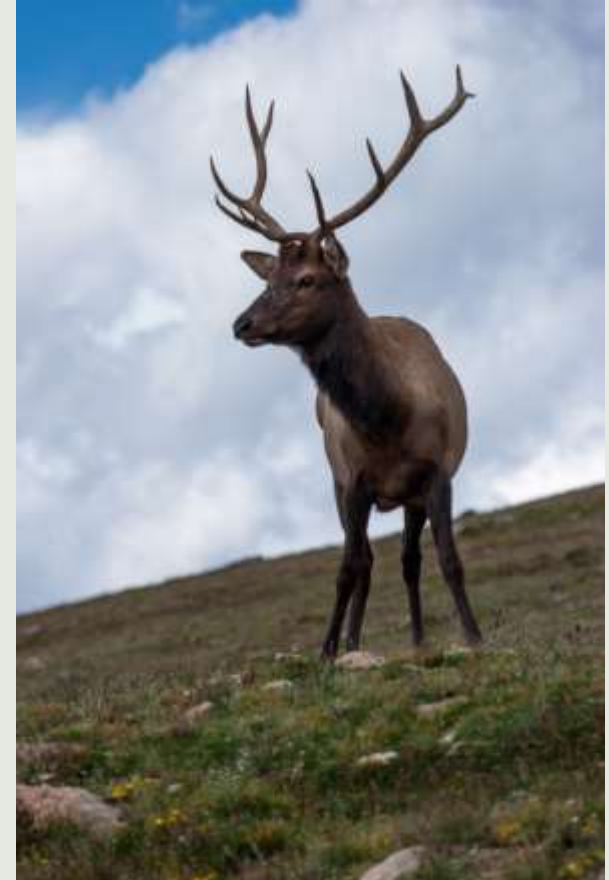
# Negative Space

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# Negative Space

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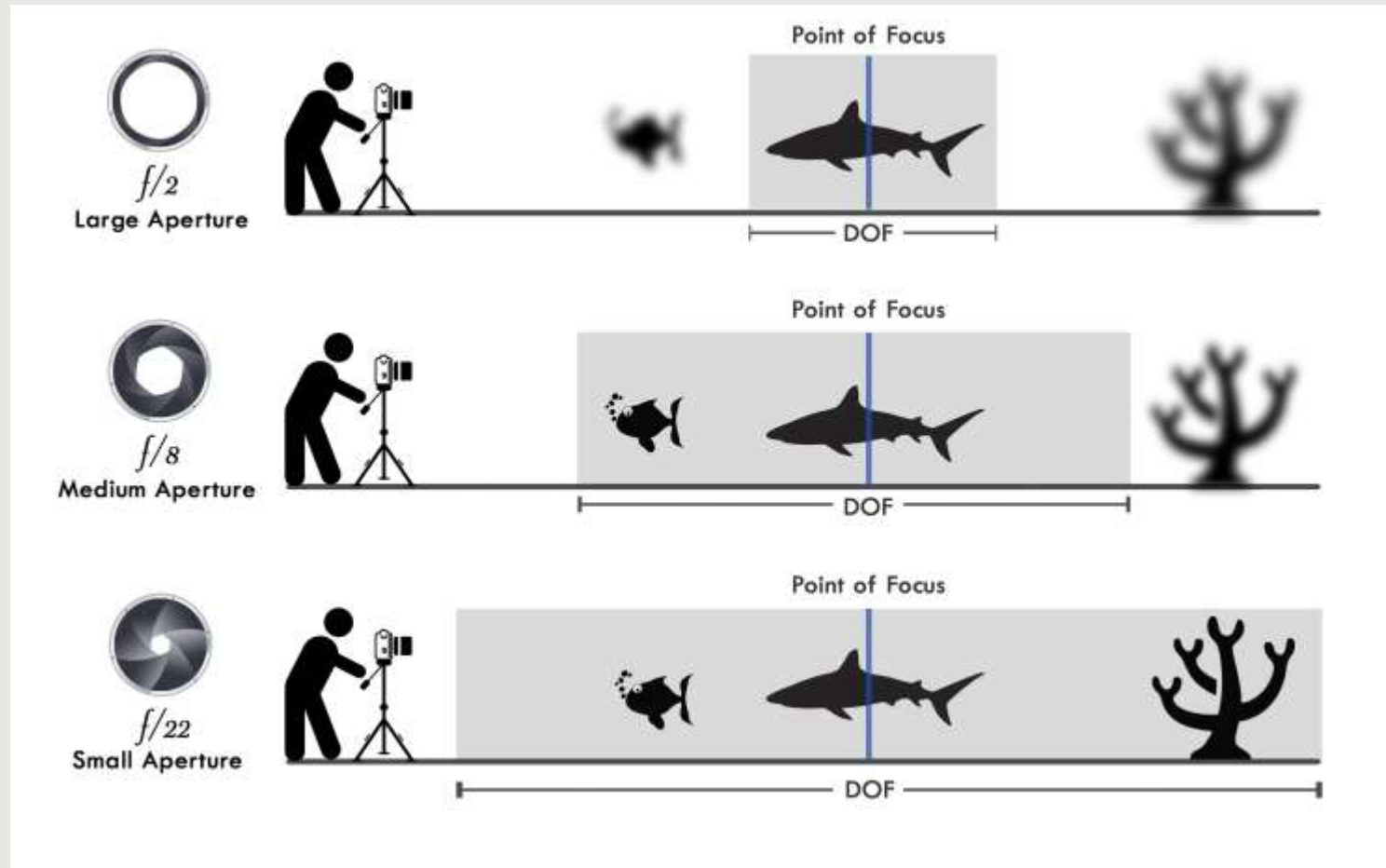


# Depth of Field

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# Depth of Field



# Assignment

Incorporating DoF and Negative Space, Create 1 to 3 images that will be the first of your 5 or 6-photos story. You will select 1 of the 3 following the critique session. You can edit the image following the class.

This will be the format for each assignment, with different compositional elements emphasized.

Email your images by 10am Wednesday to [Larry@aperture64.com](mailto:Larry@aperture64.com). Subject Line Story Class #, File name: include first initial-last name