FOUNDATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS LESSON 1

ELEMENTS OF VISUAL ART: PHOTOGRAPHY

**Line** Leading lines can move your viewer’s eyes throughout a photograph. Lines do not always have to be so obvious, like an actual telephone wire! They can be emphasized by the way a model is posed or by the objects photographed.

**Shape** Shape in a photograph doesn’t have any appearance of depth, it just appears flat and 2-D. When an object appears to have depth in a photograph it is because of lighting or perspective, and it is not a shape, but considered a form.

**Form** Objects in photographs that appear to have depth, despite being part of a two-dimensional image.

**Texture** Textures can add another element to your photographs that attract the eye. Try photographing things that you believe have interesting textures and include them in your photographs. Some examples include clothing or fabrics, kitchen tools, a shiny car door.

**Pattern** When lines, shapes or forms repeat they create a pattern. Patterns can create a sense of calm, or when broken, a sense of unease.

**Color** Color in photography (or the lack of it in black-and-white photography) is intentional; color draws the eyes to create a specific mood.

**Space** What else is around your subject? Space. A subject surrounded by a lot of open space makes the subject appear small or insignificant. If you eliminate space by zooming into a close up, the subject might appear huge and important. Including open space in an image in front of a moving subject can suggest motion and direction and to lead the viewer’s eye. For example, if photographing a runner in action, within the image you would see some part of their path ahead of them. Space doesn’t have to be “empty,” it can be the background, or just areas of the image that aren’t the focal points.

Adapted from expertphotography.com and photographyhero.com