

# 7

MINUTE  
STARTER

PHOTOGRAPHY 7.13

## Rule of Thirds

### OBJECTIVES

#### STEP 1 | LEARN

Students will learn about the rule of thirds in the Rule of Thirds handout.

#### STEP 2 | PRACTICE

Students will crop photographs on existing yearbook spreads utilizing the rule of thirds when it makes sense.

#### STEP 3 | USE

Students will consistently consider the rule of thirds when taking and cropping photos in the future.



### 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Communicating through imagery is nearly as important as communicating through words in this visual society. Students, in this lesson, will critically analyze their photography skills and utilize the rule of thirds to communicate more effectively.



### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

#### ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.5, CCRA.SL.5

Make strategic use of digital media to enhance understanding.



### ISTE STANDARDS

**1B:** Create original works.

**2A:** Publish, employing a variety of digital environments and media.

**2B:** Communicate ideas effectively using a variety of media.

**6A:** Understand and use technology systems.

Do you have an idea for a 7-Minute Starter? Email us at [7-Minutestarters@jostens.com](mailto:7-Minutestarters@jostens.com)

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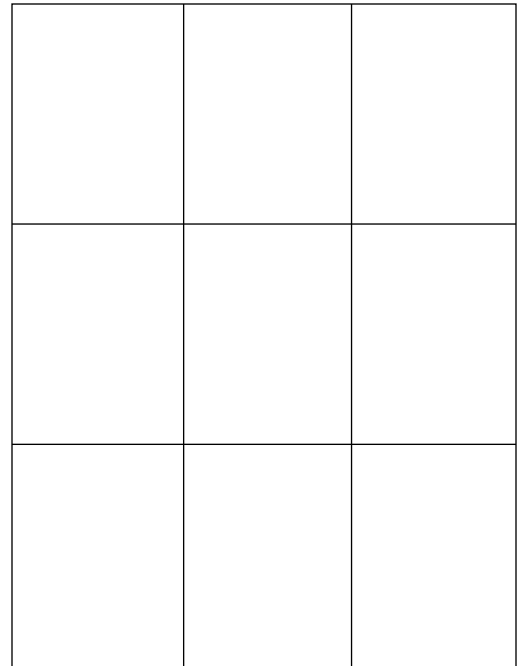
# Rule of Thirds

Whenever possible, try to avoid placing your subject directly in the center of a photograph, which often creates a static feel. Using the rule of thirds will help create movement or eye-flow.

The **rule of thirds** is a compositional technique that places the main subject off-center for a more appealing picture. The photographer mentally divides the scene in the viewfinder into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, and then places the main subject along one of the imaginary lines or where two of the lines intersect.

## HELPFUL TIPS

- » Ever wonder about the gridlines on Instagram? It's the rule of thirds. Next time on Instagram, try using the rule of thirds.
- » The rule of thirds can be achieved by moving or by waiting for the subject to move into that position.
- » When using an autofocus camera, the rule of thirds will require you to focus on your subject matter and recompose the image before you take the photo.
- » Maximize eye-flow by making sure the subject of the photo is facing the center of the photo rather than the edge.



Using these grids as a guideline, carefully consider the placement of the subject in the frame. In many SLRs, there is a function that will display these lines as a reference.



Megan Brand, Marist Catholic High School (QPR)

Dividing the image area into thirds vertically and horizontally guides the placement of the main subject. Where the lines intersect, visual “hot spots” are created. While the subject doesn’t always have to be at the exact intersection of the lines, it is a general guideline to follow.

# Rule of Thirds

In the frame below, sketch a person using the rule of thirds to guide placement.


**I used the following 21st Century Skills in class today:**

(Check as many as apply.)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creativity and Innovation                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology Operations and Concepts | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Productivity   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication and Collaboration                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Responsibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research and Information Fluency                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics                             | <input type="checkbox"/> People Skills           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountability                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Self Direction          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Citizenship                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptability                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Responsibility   |

**Explanation of task or situation where a 21st Century Skill was used:**