

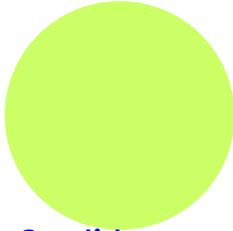


# Speaking Candidly...

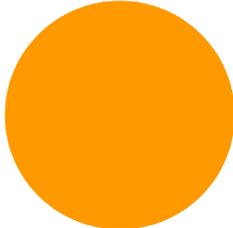
## Photography Information—Digital and Practical—For School

Article Reviews:

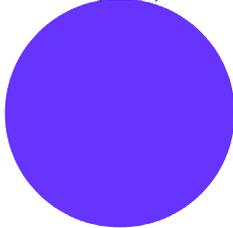
- [Pathways to Better Composition](#) by James Egbert (2002)



- [Candid Photography](#) in ePHOTOzine



- [Memory Cards Name of the Game: Faster and Bigger](#) by Joe Farace (2004)



The full articles can be accessed online by clicking on the hyperlinks above.

## Two Approaches to Better Photos

There are **pictures**, and then there are **photos**...we've all seen examples of each kind and we hope that we get **photos** each time we click the camera. Sometimes it's a matter of carefully choosing the subject and placing the camera in just the right spot. There are other times when it's possible to capture an emotion, an idea, or an impression that says more than words could ever convey.

These are two differing approaches to creating an image—composing a photograph and taking candid photographs. Each kind serves a different purpose, but each can be powerful in sharing a message

Learn how your camera works. Cameras “see” things very differently than the human eye does. A camera has one lens, but we see through binocular vision. Two eyes give people a greater field of vision, much better depth perception, and greater color receptivity.

### Composition

James Egbert explains that composition is what separates

snapshots from photographs. Some people seem to have a knack for capturing evocative moments in photographs, but there are principles of composition that can be studied and practiced for better photography.

### Improving Your Sense of Composition



Look at pictures—any place, any time, but especially advertising, photography or travel books, and magazines—to see how professionals compose photographs.



Good photographs employ the same design elements as other art forms—line, shape, color, form, and texture, in addition to light and shadow.



#### The Rule of Thirds

- Imagine a grid of three rows and three columns on your lens. Position your subject or focal point at the intersecting points of the grid.



Remember the orientation—portrait or



*Orientation can be an effective element of composition—for artistic and practical reason.*



*Candid” literally means “...characterized by openness and sincerity of expression” here.”*



landscape—can be used artistically as well as practically.

-  Remove any distracting elements (if possible) and limit your photograph to the fewer details in the in the scene.
-  Consider taking pictures from vantage points other than eye level—shoot a photograph looking down on a scene, or shooting up from ground level.
-  Think about investing in a tripod, which often produce clearer photos, and is necessary when shooting at lower shutter speeds.
-  Practice!

Egbert’s full article is worth a read—and a bookmark. In his online article, he concisely gives enough pointers for beginners to try, or for experienced photographers to practice. His information, though not technical, doesn’t need to be. Check out the article at

<http://www.focalfix.com/articles/beginners/composition.shtml>

Learning the principles of composition will help to create better photographs for use in classroom instruction. Visual prompts help many people learn more easily and composition can help to keep the subject and other important elements as the focus

of your picture, while removing the distracting features.

When you feel comfortable taking photos that are composed well, you will be able to help students to create visual records of their learning experiences. These can serve as “products” of learning for students, important elements for portfolio assessment, or another opportunity for students to share their learning with each other, with family members, and with a larger community through the Web.

## Candid Photos

“Candid” literally means “...characterized by openness and sincerity of expression” or “...not posed or rehearsed” according to the American Heritage Dictionary, but that implies that people will be the subject of candid photographs. Often, it’s people in a particular setting or situation, which might be an equally important element of the picture.

An article from ePHOTOzine.com gives a practical overview of candid photography, starting with the two approaches to candid photos:

-  “Shooting from a distance” is easy and safe, but requires some different equipment.
  - A telephoto lens (a focal length greater than

50mm) is needed for this kind of distance shooting. The article explains the principle of telephoto distance, differences between 35mm and digital lenses, and suggestions for lenses needed.

- “Cropping” or using details from a photo is another option, but the method also compromises the quality of the photo.



The “*in your face*” method have the advantage of being “up close and personal” but the challenge is to maintain the element of candidness. The article exposes some “tricks” that allow a photographer to effectively capture unrehearsed moments at close range.

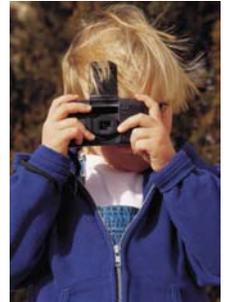
- Using a wide-angle lens, point the camera at something to the side of the subject. The lens will capture the subject, but the person may remain relaxed and unaffected.
- Some cameras have a rotating viewfinder. Moving this can seem like you are checking your camera, while you can take a photo from waist-level.

- If you take a candid photo from close range, it is wise to explain your purpose to the subject.

This article has a number of photo examples that will help the reader see what can be accomplished through both methods. While the author is not identified, there is information about how s/he achieved the photos that are shown. This article is well worth the few minutes it will take to read it. The examples show the value of capturing those candid moments. The full article is available on the Web at

<http://www.ephotozine.com/techniques/viewtechnique.cfm?recid=241>

While this might seem to be the “opposite” of composition, it really requires some of the same skills—learning to see things the way your camera does, knowing how to use your camera well, and knowing some basic design elements. Taking candid shots can be another important skill in creating effective teaching and learning experiences, as well as recording students as they are involved in the learning process.



*Students will probably use some interesting “points of view” to record their learning experiences.*



## Memory Cards

Digital photography will allow you to practice these principles and (re)view them on the camera or on a computer. This allows immediate viewing of your efforts and saves money on processing. As improved camera technology allows us to take better photographs, increased storage memory becomes more important. Fortunately, technology in this area is also moving rapidly.

A number of sources produce memory cards or sticks—some the size of postage stamps and as thick as a couple of stacked credit cards. Most people are interested in the storage *size*, but the speed at which these cards work is also important.

This article minimally addresses some of the technical aspects, but it's a good read for anyone, including those people who are new to digital photography or those considering a digital camera purchase.

Many people think of these memory cards as “digital film” and that is a reasonable analogy. Companies are now marketing these memory cards by exposure—like film—rather than by capacity. They even suggested that people could drop off memory cards, much the same they would film, for processing.

This article mentions some of the

leading producers of memory cards and reading this article is a good starting point to learn about the possibilities of compact storage. This memory card technology is used in the new digital camera purchased by the Technology Department, which gives them tremendous storage capacity. This is necessary because they new cameras can take pictures that are much higher quality.

Reading about portable storage options—for photography or other digital technologies—is a good way to keep apprised of changes in technology. This article should make sense to anyone who has even a vague understanding of technology. Joe Farace makes comparisons between these memory cards and other portable storage (CD-ROM).

With greatly increased storage potential, all the learning experiences and classroom events for a whole year could potentially be recorded on one disk. Students could carry a digital photo record of their accomplishments and achievements throughout their K-12 education on a single memory stick...except that technology will likely improve tremendously over that length of time!

Read the complete article at [http://www.shutterbug.com/show\\_reports/0604sb\\_memory/](http://www.shutterbug.com/show_reports/0604sb_memory/)



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