

This handout can be used as a guide for teachers to support younger pupils or as a handout for older pupils.

# Tips for taking a good photograph

Are you ready to go on a walk and make some photos with your iPads? Great!  
Here are some things to think about before pressing the button.

## 1. How would holding the iPad in a different way, change this picture?

Many photographers get into the habit of always holding their camera the same way (horizontally = landscape or vertically = portrait). While it's OK to have a preference one way or the other it's also worth remembering that changing the way you choose to take the picture can drastically change the impact of the photo. Don't forget you can also hold your iPad at an angle for an effective result too. Give it a try and see what you like. Landscape means horizontal. Portrait means vertical.

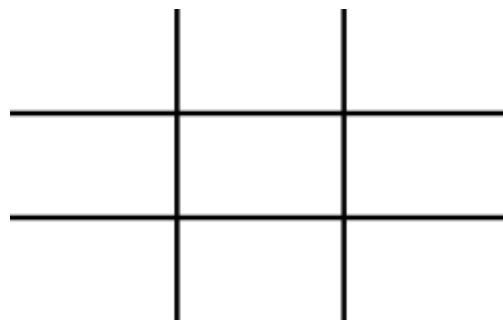
## 2. What story am I telling?

What do you want to say about your town? Remember the theme is Work and Play. How do people play in this town? Do they go to the beach? Are there still fishermen in Berwick? Where can you see them fishing? These questions will help you to make other decisions about composition and framing, you are asking 'why am I taking this photo on my iPad?'

## 3. What am I interested in when I take this photo?

This is often called a focal point. What do you want people to look at? Once you know this you can think where that should be in the image. Look through your screen. Move around a little. One of the techniques for focal points is The Rule of Thirds.

The Rule of Thirds: As you look through your iPad's screen, imagine there are lines dividing the image into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, essentially dividing your image into nine equal-shaped blocks. Frame your subject at one of the intersection points instead of in the centre of the viewfinder, as shown in the following illustration. The eye rests most naturally on these lines in a frame.



#### **4. What competing focal points are there?**

Scan your eyes over your screen and see if there are any competing focal points and ask yourself whether they add to or take away from the image. What are you including in the photo?

#### **5. What is in the background and foreground?**

One of most common places for distractions in photography is the background. Look at the space behind your subject to see what else is in the image. Change your angle or distance from the subject to take things out of the background or add details that you want people to see because they add to the 'story' about the subject.

#### **6. What is the main source of light?**

Is it light enough to take a photo? Do you need to use flash? Does flash make your photo look worse or better? Think about the time of day, the golden hour is a great time to go on a walk and take some photos. Is it too bright? Is it too dark?

#### **7. Where am I taking the photo from?**

Is the subject too small? Are you too far away? Can someone else see what you are photographing? Have a go at filling the screen of your iPad with a close-up. These can make really exciting photos!

#### **8. Is my framing straight?**

It's amazing how many otherwise good photos are spoiled by framing that is slightly wonky. Avoiding sloping horizons and slightly leaning people or buildings should always be in the back of your mind.

#### **9. What other perspectives could I get?**

Time to have some fun. Remember you can put your iPad low to the ground, take photos from the floor. You can look down! There's lots of different points where you could get a really fun and interesting photo.

## 10. How am I composing the image?

Let's look at some of the photos in the Photo Centre Archive which is held by Berwick Record Office, for some great examples!



What does this photo tell you about this lady? Where is she? What is she doing?

If you look, she is slightly off-centre. The background tells us about her. We can see she is working. Look at how her head is above the buses so we can see her clearly. Look at the distance between her and the buses. Now look at the space around her. She is the main focal point of the image.



Wow! Look at this photo. Another person at work. Who is it? What is he doing?

I would guess he is a fisherman in the wheelhouse of his boat. The photographer has used a really great technique here. It's called a **frame in a frame**. Can you see the man is in a square window and that makes him the focal point? It is a great technique for portraits.





What does this photo show us? Do you know where this is in Berwick? How has it changed? Does the car look old?

This picture is interesting because it uses the pavement to lead our eyes in. Do you see how the lines of the pavement create interest? There are also reflections in this image. Reflections are great for creating interesting elements. You get really good reflections after it has rained.



Another picture of people at work. Can you see their uniforms show us who they are?

The people are all to one side of the photo. This makes it an interesting focal point. The photographer is also giving some space. Can you see the space on the right? It makes the photo easier to look at than if it was full on both sides.





Look at this photo. It really shows Berwick in a different time. Where was the photograph taken? How do the streets and shops look now? Can you see the photographer is using the lines on the pavement again? It makes us follow them and look to the end of the photo.



What is happening here? Can you see these two people are getting married? How can we tell?

Look at the background. Can you see it is used as a backdrop? It is a wall with a plant. This makes the photo stand out more than if there was too much going on. Can you see the space around the people? It makes the photo more interesting.



If you want to see more photos from the Photo Centre archive to get some inspiration, remember you can visit the ***Portrait of a Town*** exhibition at The Granary Gallery, Berwick-upon-Tweed during summer 2021.

We would love to see the photos you take after using our resources, please share them with us on social media using the hashtag **#PhotoCentreBerwick**

Images courtesy Berwick Record Office.

Resource created by Joanne Coates [www.joannecoates.co.uk](http://www.joannecoates.co.uk).

The Photo Centre Archive, covering the period 1951 to 2012 is kept at the Berwick Record Office. It consists of over 3 million negatives which document the life of Berwick and the surrounding area. For more information contact: Linda Bankier, Berwick Archivist, e-mail: [berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk).

This resource is part of online photography workshops created to accompany the ***Portrait of a Town*** photography exhibition held at The Granary Gallery, Berwick-upon-Tweed during 2021 and were supported by Northumberland Arts Development [www.photocentreberwick.co.uk](http://www.photocentreberwick.co.uk).

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