

# Making good pictures with your mobile phone

Tips on COMPOSITION and ANGLES to make your pictures stand out

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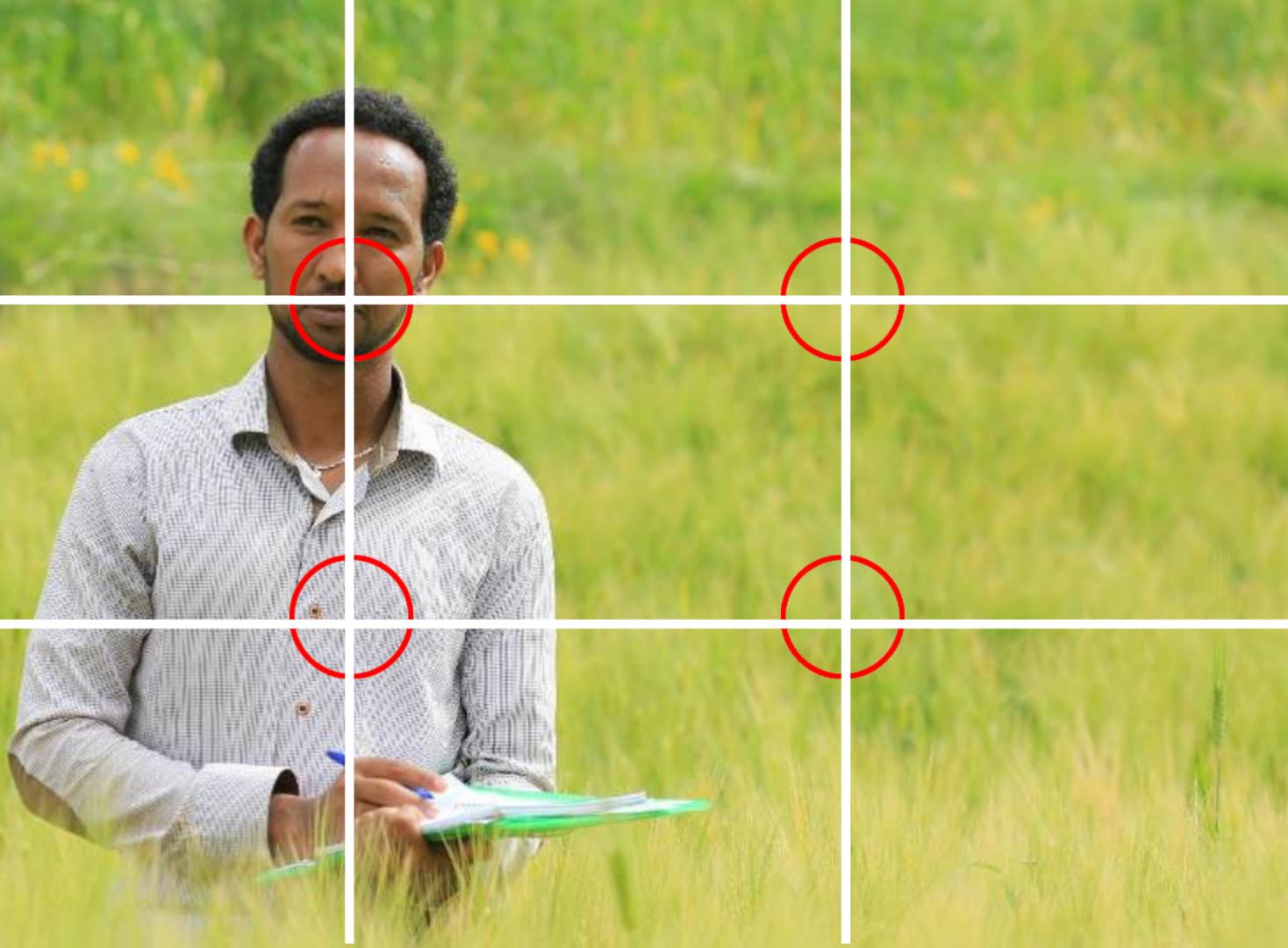
# Why are pictures so important?

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- **'A good picture is your most powerful message'**
  - Pictures visualise **what** we do and **how** we do it
  - People nowadays read less & view more (pictures & movies)
  - Social media messages, adverts, posters with good pictures have more impact
- Using your own pictures avoids copyright problems of using someone elses picture in your communication.

Tricks that help : **COMPOSITION**

# Rule of Thirds





Lead  
room

Empty  
space



Lines  
Curves

Depth  
of  
Field  
(DOF)



Depth  
of  
Field  
(DOF)



# Rule of Odds



Frame



Neil  
Palmer

10

Fill  
the  
Frame





Close  
up

# Over shoulder



# Symmetry



Tricks that help : **ANGLES**



# ANGLES

empowering

low angle –  
frog perspective



neutral



risks de-  
powering

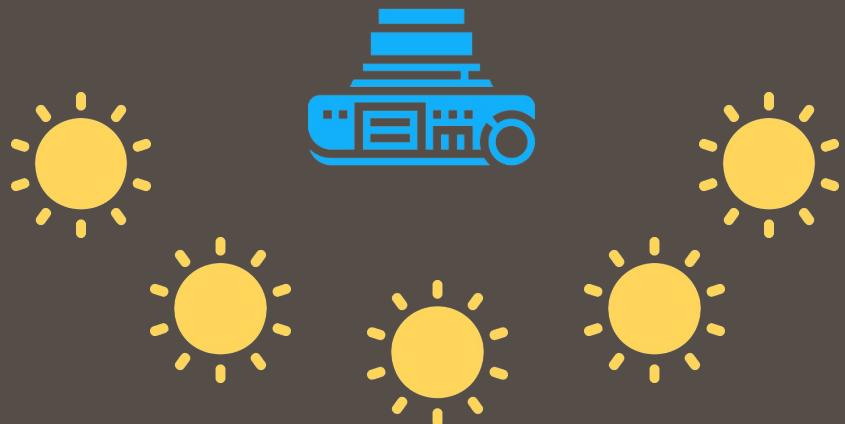
high angle –  
bird's eye view

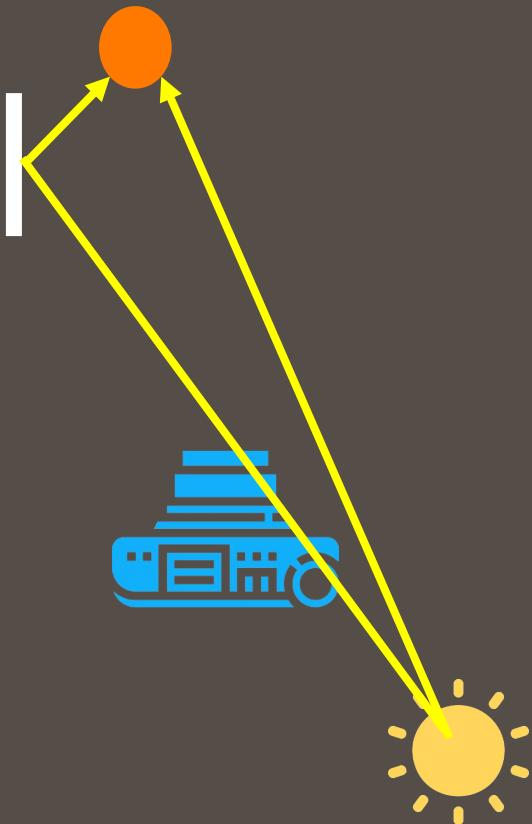


Tricks that help : **LIGHTNING**



- Daylight
- Early morning – late afternoon
- If possible in shade
- Sun in back – from side
- If hard shadows - reflector





- Daylight
- Early morning – late afternoon
- Sun in back – from side
- If possible in shade
- If hard shadows – paper reflector

Tricks that help : **CONTEXT**

# Provide context

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- Relative size
- Crops
- Tools
- Writing
- Landscape

Tricks that help : **PLAN AHEAD**

# Be prepared: AEIOU observation framework



Activities



Environments



Interactions



Objects



Users

learning  
building  
trashing  
farming  
delivering  
providing

farm  
market  
work floor  
'problem' area  
'success' area

buying  
selling  
brokering  
teaching  
gatherings

raw materials  
tools  
signs  
mobile phones  
money

producers  
customers  
traders  
employees  
women/men

# PLAN your SHOTLIST

## AEIOU

- Activities
- Environments
- Interactions
- Objects
- Users (people)

## composition

- rule of thirds
- lines / curves
- frame
- shallow depth of field / focus
- over shoulder shot
- fill the frame
- symmetry

## angles

- low
- straight
- high

# Prepare a shotlist

## SHOTLIST

What:

Where:

When:

Photographer:

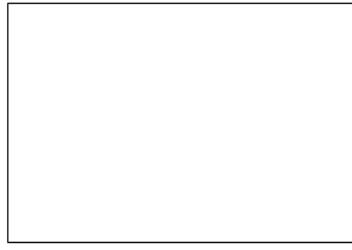
Sketch composition of what you want in photo in the frames, and describe in few words under frame



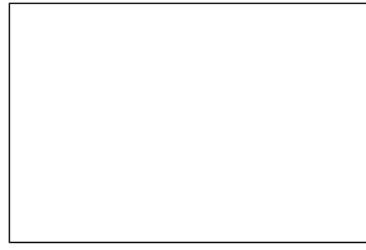
Description: .....



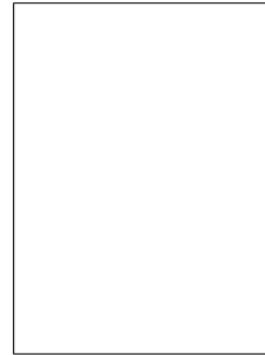
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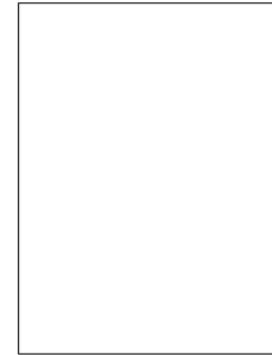
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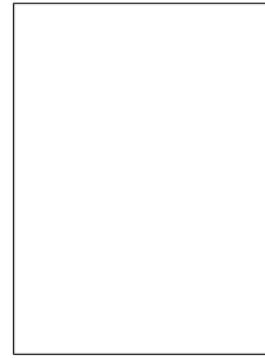
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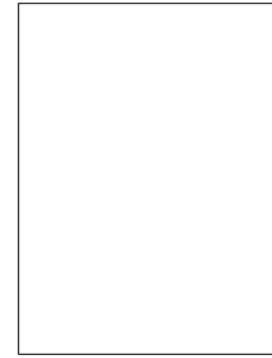
Description: .....



Description: .....



Description: .....



Description: .....

# Summary Shot composition

thirds



Apollo  
Habtamu

DOF  
sym-  
metry



Neil  
Palmer

lines



Francesco  
Fiondella

lead



C Shubert

close-  
up



Neil  
Palmer

over  
shoulder



Mirjam  
Schaap

# Angles

frog



Neil  
Palmer

eye



Neil  
Palmer

bird



Neil  
Palmer

# MOBILE PHONE SETTINGS

# TIPS for mobile phone settings and handling

## SETTINGS:

- Grid
- Highest quality
- 2x3
- Flash: off
- HDR: auto
- Use RAW (when possible)

- CLEAN lens
- AVOID UNSHARP:
  - keep wit 2 HANDS
- SUN in YOUR back – light on face
- ZOOM with FEET (walk over)
- MORE IS BETTER - BURST
- USE + BREAK rules
- try different FRAMES & ANGLES
- DIRECT PEOPLE



## FOCUS:

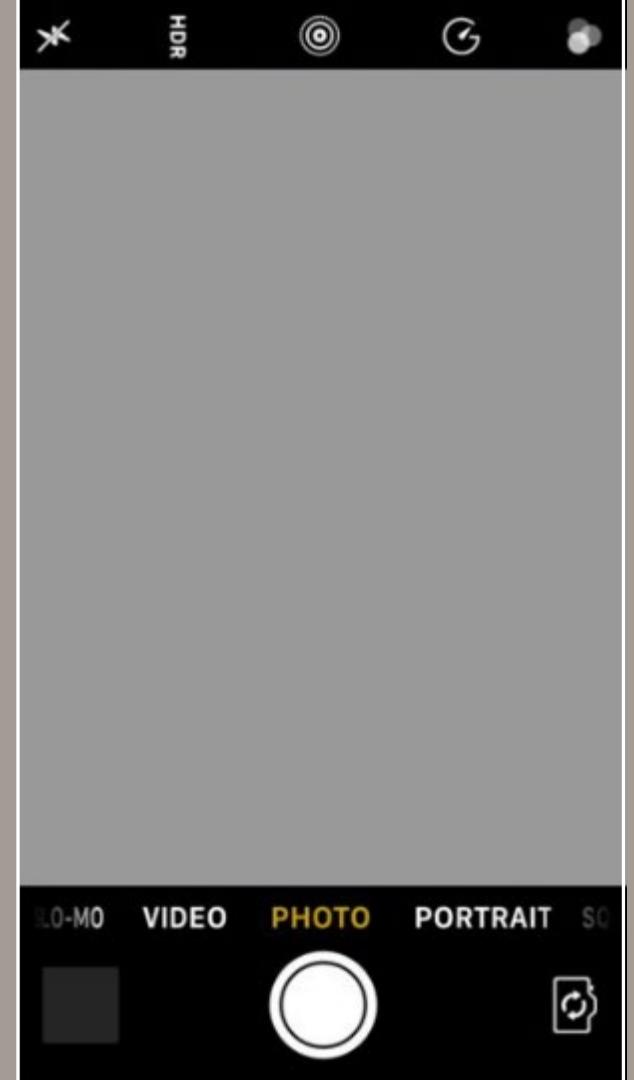
- tap on area to focus**
- tap + hold some time to set AE/AF lock to take multiple photos of same scene**
- for sharp focus far away objects: zoom in, set AE/AF lock, zoom out, take picture**

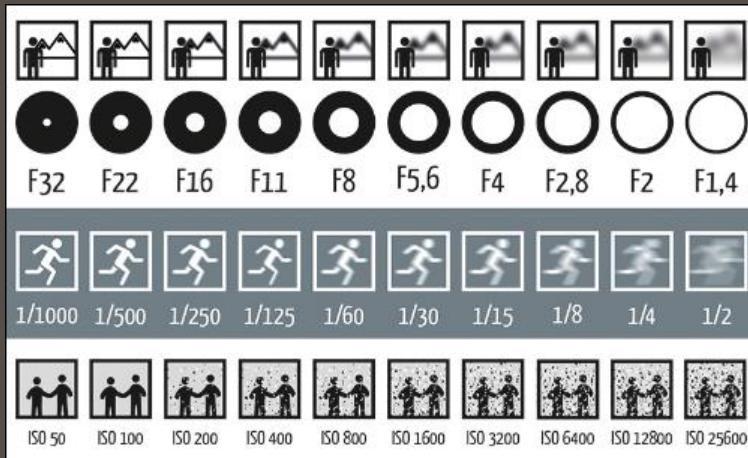
## EXPOSURE:

- after tapping to focus adjust manually: sliding up-down**

## DEPTH of FIELD

- get close to object foreground, compose, tap to focus, click**
- use portrait mode if available**



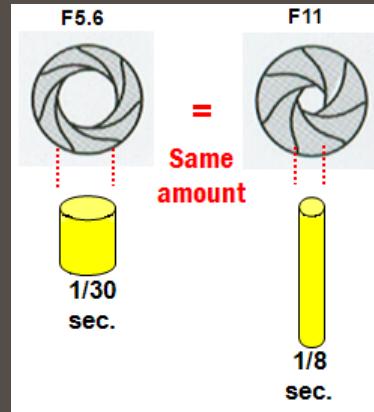


If it's too bright:

- increase your shutter speed
- pick a bigger F/stop
- decrease your ISO

If it's too dark:

- decrease your shutter speed
- pick a smaller F/stop
- increase your ISO



need sharper images?

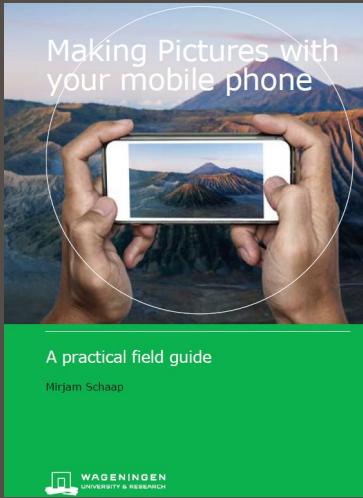
- increase your shutter speed
- shutter speed > focal length

depth of field

- small F/stop = shallow
- big F/stop = depth

# Enjoy making pictures that work!

Also read the practical field guide



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