

# Negative Space

One way of making sure your composition is strong is to pay attention to the positive and negative spaces.

The primary subject of your photo, a person, building, toy car, whatever, is the "positive space."

Negative space is everything else. Something you see in a lot of photography is things sticking out of heads, wires across the scene you didn't see when taking the picture, and so on. This is just from paying so much attention to the subject that photographers forget what is in the background or surrounding the subject.

Negative space is the space around your subjects in your photographs. The space of nothingness in your photographs is just as important as the space that is taken up with your subject. Negative space provides balance in a photograph and also provides a place for your eyes to rest. Studying and including the negative space in your composition can help strengthen the composition and add more emphasis to your main subject.

It is not always necessary to fill your frame when composing a photograph. Incorporating negative space in your photographs can add stability to your photographs while helping to define the subject within your image.











The term "Negative Space" refers to a large area of a photograph that is devoid of detail. Too much negative space will cause the viewer to become lost in the void of emptiness, too little and the subject will show up cramped in the image. So came the term, "less is more" and the negative space turned to become a very positive part of the image where your subject will stand out much, much more.



Positive space is where shapes and forms exist; negative space is the empty space around shapes and forms. In the photo below the black area is negative space and it serves to balance the area in which the marmot and rock occupy. Areas of a picture that contain "nothing" are important visual elements that provide balance in an image.



# Assignment 3

- Go to [www.pbase.com/cslr\\_challenge/cslr35\\_negative\\_space](http://www.pbase.com/cslr_challenge/cslr35_negative_space) - go to both “Challenge 35 : Eligible Gallery” and “Challenge 35 : Exhibition” – look at the examples of Negative Space photography.
- Work with a partner; i.e., group of 2.
- Take a camera and go take photos that illustrate the concept of Negative Space. Take as many photos as possible in the period of time you have.
- When you return, download your photos, view them, and keep only your five best shots. Name these “negative1”, “negative2”, and “negative3”, etc. Save these in your Photography folder.