Lesson 12: Leading Lines

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand the concept of leading lines.
- Develop awareness of leading lines that can be found around you, both man-made and natural.
- Apply the concept of leading lines to your photos and describe how they create movement and lead the eye into or through your photos.

Leading lines are straight, curved, parallel, or diagonal lines that pull your eye into or through a photo. While you won't always be able to find a leading line for every photo, if you do, you'll need to find the best angle to make it work. A leading line often starts from a corner of a photo and leads your eyes into or through the photo, but it can also work starting from an edge. A leading line could be anything: road, path, fence, stream, hedge, staircase, or even a shadow.

Here are five examples of photos with leading lines to get you thinking.

1. Let your eyes start in the lower right corner and follow the circular staircase upward through the building.

2. Start in the lower right corner and follow the country lane into the middle of the photo.

3. Start at any corner, and spiral into the photo.

4. Start at the bottom/bottom right and walk your bike across the bridge and into the photo.

5. Finally, start the bottom middle and follow the footprints across the sand dunes. Where do you think the people are now?

EXPLORE

For great examples of leading lines photos and lots of ideas for shooting your own, see *How to Use Leading Lines for Better Compositions* from Digital Photography School:
http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-use-leading-lines-for-better-compositions/

Now learn about different types of leading lines at *EXAMPLES OF LEADING LINES AND HOW TO USE THEM* from Photolistic Life:
http://photolisticlife.com/2013/07/13/examples-of-leading-lines-and-how-to-use-them/

For more information and examples of black-and-white photos, see *Leading Lines in Photography* from Photoble:
http://www.photoble.com/photography-tips-tricks/leading-lines-in-photography

Terms of Use

Grading Rubric:

*Note: Your grade will be calculated by the sum of the points earned for each question. Points are earned according to the chart below.

To get a 10: A total score of 10 upon the first submission or after the first revision.

To get a 9: A total score of 9 after the first revision.

To get an 8: A total score of 8 after the first revision.

To get a 7: A total score of 7 after the first revision.

To get a 6: A total score of 6 after the first revision.

To get a 5: Any score lower than a 6; Plagiarism – purposeful or mistaken, which will lower your final grade for the course (So, be very careful when posting your work!); lack of effort, disrespect, or attitude. Lesson requirements have not been met.

Short Answer (Total content points possible = 4)	Answer is clearly written and accurate. Answer is based on the lesson content or the resources provided in the lesson.	Answer is clearly written. Answer is based on the lesson content or the resources provided in the lesson. May have 1 factual error or omission.	Answer is not clearly written. There are more than 1 factual omissions or errors. Answer is not based on lesson content or lesson resources.
	2 points each	**1 point each**	**0 points each**

Photo Shoot (Total content points possible = 6)	Three photos are uploaded and clearly demonstrate the use of leading lines. Answer includes discussion of the techniques used to show the use of leading lines. **2 points each photo**	Three photos are uploaded and clearly demonstrate the use of leading lines. Discussion of leading lines may not be clearly written. **1 point each photo**	There are not three photos uploaded, or photos do not show the use of leading lines. Or, answer does not include a discussion of the techniques used to show framing. **0 points each photo**

Assignment:

Please post the questions with your answers in the text box below to submit your work. Remember to use complete sentences, use proper grammar, and don't forget to proofread and spell check your work before submitting it.

Do not submit text that you have copied from sources, including websites. All of your work should be in your own words. Using copied text would be considered plagiarism. For more information, review our page on Plagiarism and Citation.

Short Answer - Using 2-4 complete sentences, answer the following questions.

1. What is the function of leading lines?

2. Make your own list of things that could be leading lines without including any of the things listed above the five photo examples.

Photo Shoot - Leading Lines

3. Shoot four or more photos - no pairs this time. See if you can find interesting leading lines. If you're not sure where to look, review *How to Use Leading Lines for Better Compositions* from Digital Photography School (see above). This article has lots of ideas for where to look for leading lines.

Review your leading lines photos and select three photos to upload. Discuss how each photo shows the use of leading lines.

Remember to save your photos to keep them for the portfolio you'll create in the end-of-course final project.