



CHAPTER 3

Film Language and Elements of Style

JOURNAL ENTRY 11-2-11

- What do you think *composition* means? Remember to answer using COMPLETE sentences.



NOTE TAKING DIRECTIONS

- **RED** MUST be in your notes.
- Black is **GOOD TO KNOW** but not **REQUIRED** in your notes.



VISUAL THINKING ACTIVITY 3-1

○ Directions:

- We are going to view a famous painting called “Watson and the Shark” by John Singleton Copley from 1778.
- Pay attention as we discuss the following questions about the painting.....



KEY TERM: COMPOSITION

- Composition is the *arrangement* of all the *elements* that contribute to the *appearance* of a picture.
- The *elements* work together to create *meaning* in the picture.



COMPOSITION IN FILM

- “Watson and the Shark” is a painting and its composition is *static*. No matter how long you stare at it **nothing will ever change**.
 - In this single picture the young man will never be rescued.
- Composition in motion pictures works along the same principals of design as composition in painting except:
 - **Motion picture images are *dynamic*, meaning they are always *changing*.**



COMPOSITION IN FILM

- Composition is important in telling a story visually.
- Scenes are made up of shots, shots are made up of single images called *frames*.
- Composition is part of *how* the filmmaker tells the story.
- Understanding the elements of composition is an important visual-literacy skill that we will explore in this chapter.



MORE KEY TERMS

- A frame is a single photograph on a strip of motion-picture film.
 - Identifying elements within a single frame is the first step in learning how to read moving images.
- The point of emphasis is the object or person that is most important in the frame; the thing the cinematographer wants the audience to notice.



VISUAL THINKING ACTIVITY 3-2

- Directions:
 - We are now going to view a still shot from “To Kill A Mockingbird” from the courtroom.



MORE NOTES/DISCUSSION ABOUT COMPOSITION

- IMPORTANT:
- Every composition has a point of emphasis, or center of interest.
- What is the point of emphasis in “Watson and the Shark”?
 - The attempted rescue OR the young man in the water and the two men reaching for him.
- What is the point of emphasis in the TKM still we just viewed?
 - Mayella – Her testimony will determine the fate of Tom Robinson.
- Why might Mayella NOT be considered the point of emphasis?



WATSON AND THE SHARK.....AGAIN.....LINES OF COMPOSITION

- What are some of the lines in this painting?
- Write the following in your NOTES:
- Lines are an element of composition. The human eye tends to follow lines.
- Lines are used by painters and photographers to guide the viewer's eye around a composition.
- Examples in “Watson and the Shark”:
 - Boat hook draws our eyes to the water and the shark.
 - Oar draws our eyes to the rescuers reaching for the boy.
 - The boy's arm is a line directing our attention to the man with the hook.



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD STILL.....AGAIN.....

- Where are some lines in this still? What do they draw attention to?



WRAPPING UP.....

- What is composition?
- What is a frame?
- What is the point of emphasis?
- Why is a point of emphasis important?
- Why is composition important in filmmaking?
- What do lines in a composition do?



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FREEWRTING

- Copy the quote from Director Douglas Trumbull below. After the quote write what you think he means based on our topic today:
- “ A Movie is a series of still photographs shown in rapid succession. When you understand what you can do with one photograph, you can then understand what you can do with the rest of the film.”

