• **Who or what** do you see?
• **When** was this photograph taken — what is happening in the photograph?
• **Where** was this photograph taken?

• Why did the photographer select these particular elements to include in the photograph? What **don’t** you see?

• Why did the photographer emphasize certain elements and not others? What’s in focus? Is only one person or element in focus, or are many elements in focus?

• Why did the photographer take the picture at this moment? What happened before or after this picture was taken?

• Why did the photographer take the picture from this angle? What might the scene have looked like from another vantage point — from left, right, behind, above, or below?
The POWER OF THE Photographic Composition

Principles of Design and Elements of Art are used making photographs – not just taking photographs.

The different arrangements – or compositions the photographer selects creates artistic, interesting, more visually powerful photographs.
Some Principles of Design

- Emphasis
  - Focal Point

- Balance
  - Symmetrical
  - Asymmetrical
  - Radial

- Contrast
  - Opposites
  - Differences

- Rhythm/Repetition
  - Repeating shapes and colors

Proportion
Harmony
Unity
Pattern
Variety
Movement
This photograph shows the following elements and principles: color, contrast, emphasis, and value. Value is shown through the different shades of the color orange and hues that are bright and really stand out from each other. Contrast is used in the variation between the light colors (red, orange, yellow) and the dark colors (black, dark blue-violet, and brown). Emphasis is used in this photograph by the two dark blue-violet berries hanging on the leaf near the center.
EMPHASIS or Focal Point

**Emphasis** in a composition refers to developing points of interest to pull the viewer's eye to important parts of the body of the work. This can be achieved with element of simplicity.
Balance is a sense of stability in the body of work. Balance can be created by repeating same shapes and by creating a feeling of equal weight.
CONTRAST

Contrast refers to the opposites and differences in the work. You can achieve variety by using different shapes, textures, colors and values in your work.
Repetition and Rhythm

**Rhythm** is a type of movement in drawing and painting. It is seen in repeating of shapes and colors. Alternating lights and darks also give a sense of rhythm.
Movement adds excitement to your work by suggesting action or direction *(providing a path for our eyes to follow)* when we look at a work of art.
Can you match the **Principle** to the photo?

- **Emphasis**
  - Focal Point

- **Rhythm/Repetition**
  - Repeating shapes and colors

- **Balance**
  - Symmetrical
  - Asymmetrical
  - Radial

- **Movement**
  - Providing a path for eyes to follow

- **Contrast**
  - Opposites
  - Differences
It’s YOUR turn!
Tell a math story through PHOTOGRAPHY
Use the principles of design to compose a Photo Story.

Photographs are not simply randomly 'taken' but are in fact, 'crafted' using skills of exposure and light selection as well as **compositional** skills. Images are, therefore, composed in order to tell a story.