

Photographic Composition

Basic Photography Concepts

The Humanitarian Development Department

- Before you start this course, you need to know the reason for shooting, which is only for recording activities, making reports or in order to be able to capture and pass on the beauty of goodness for the world.
- One must not only follow the rules of photography and frame of reference, but also think the image through before you take a shot. The most important part is about imaging the picture you want and being able to convey your idea. Do not get bogged down by equipment, having cameras and technique do not mean that you will take a good photo.
- If you are familiar with your camera and practice your technique, you will be able to make a fantastic photograph.

- A good composition, light condition and unique visual effect can produce a fantastic photograph.
- You might not be able to take a great shot which contains special lighting changes, but if you can make a good decision about the balance and contrast of the composition, you still can take a better photo with clearly subject.

Balance in Photography: Left-Right Balance, Top-Bottom Balance



Chongsheng church within Shanlin Great Love Complex in Kaohsiung.
Photo by Liu Sen-Yun
July 4, 2010 .

Balance in Photography: Left-Right Balance, Top-Bottom Balance



Buddha Bathing Ceremony at the Tzu Chi branch in Tainan.
Photo by Su Wen-Fa
May 8, 2011 .

Balance in Photography: Left-Right Balance, Top-Bottom Balance



Tzu Chi USA 20th annual conference was held at Tzu Chi USA Headquarters.

Photo by Chen Ching-Wang

October 24, 2009

Balance in Photography: Left-Right Balance, Top-Bottom Balance



The blessing ceremony for helping purify the hearts of people in the world in Shanghai, China.
Photo by Huang Tien-He
May 17, 2012

Balance in Photography: Left-Right Balance, Top-Bottom Balance



Tzu Chi University in Hualien, Taiwan.
Photo by Pai Kun-Ting
October 27, 2012 .

Balance in Photography: Left-Right Balance, Top-Bottom Balance



Xizhi Tzu Chi branch office.
Photo by Pai Kun-Ting
July 4, 2012

Balance in Photography: Left-Right Balance, Top-Bottom Balance



A grand and solemn Buddha Day Ceremony is held at the National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei.

Photo by Wang Pao-Kuo

May 11, 2014

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi volunteers making home visits and winter distributions in Durban, South Africa.

Photo by Chu Heng-Min

June 19, 2011

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi Volunteers making home visits in Thanlyin region of Yangon Province, Myanmar.

Photo by Chang Wen-Hui

August 14, 2010

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi volunteers making home visits and winter distributions in Durban, South Africa.

Photo by Liao Mei-Ling
November 7, 2012

Leading Lines



Volunteers take part in the 2010 Overseas Tzu Chi volunteer training camp. Photo by Huang Hsiao-Che October 4, 2010.

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi volunteers hold the Buddha Day Ceremony and Blessing Ceremony in the the Tzu Chi Singapore Branch Office.

Photo by Tsai Yu-Liang

May 12, 2013

Leading Lines



Tainan Tzu Chi Senior High School hold a sports day to celebrate its third anniversary.

Photo by Li Chi-Hua

December 11, 2010

Leading Lines



The survey team of Tzu Chi Foundation visiting Liugui township in Kaohsiung after Typhoon Morakot.
Photo by Chou Hsing-Hung
September 19, 2009

Leading Lines



The damage caused by Typhoon Morakot in Meishan township, Chiayi County.

Photo by Cheng Shun-Ming

September 5, 2009

Leading Lines



The damage caused by an earthquake in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.

Photo by Lin Yen-Huang

March 24, 2010

Leading Lines



This bridge was destroyed by Typhoon Morakot in Qishan, Kaohsiung.
Photo by Tang Chiang-Hu
August 9, 2009

Leading Lines



The Tzu Chi disaster relief team helping Typhoon Morakot victims clean up their mud-coated roads in Linbian Township, Pingtung County, southern Taiwan.

Photo by Ku Chi-Kung

August 19, 2009

Leading Lines



The Tzu Chi disaster relief team helping Typhoon Morakot victims clean up their mud-coated homes in Linbian Township, Pingtung County, southern Taiwan.

Photo by Huang Wei-Jan

August 23, 2009

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi Foundation has built pre-fabricated classrooms in Tunga Central School through the International Relief of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in Philippines.

Photo by Huang Hsiao-Che

December 9, 2013

Leading Lines



The Tzu Chi kindergarten class in Penang, Malaysia.
Photo by Lin Yen-Huang
August 28, 2002.

Leading Lines



The construction of Jing Si Abode in Hualien.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
October 20, 2009

Leading Lines



Students planting trees to celebrate the 5th anniversary at Tainan Tzu Chi Senior High School.

Photo by Huang Hsiao-Che
December 8, 2012

Leading Lines



The local community study group in Luzhou, New Taipei City.
Photo by Wang Yu-Lu
March 5, 2014

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi volunteers hold the Year-end Blessing ceremonies at the Houli branch office in Taichung, Taiwan.

Photo by Chen Tsung-Lin

December 8, 2013

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi volunteers went to an orthopedic hospital to care for patients in the Philippines.

Photo by Lin Yen-Huang

July 23, 2007

Leading Lines



Tzu Ching Collegiate volunteers visiting the Veteran's Home to offer care for veterans in Pingtung.

Photo by Chen Ying-Mao

April 27, 2014

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi volunteers visiting a Veteran's Home to offer veterans their care in Tianxin District, Changsha City, Hunan Province, China.

Photo by Peng Hsiao-Pin

January 5, 2014

Leading Lines



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a winter distribution in the mountainous county of Luodian, Guizhou Province, China.

Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming

January 13, 2008

Leading Lines



Hong Kong volunteers Tsai Chu (first from left) and Cheng Hsiao-Pi (second from left) watched the video of the sutra adaptation of the Water Repentance text.
Photo by Lo Chin-Fu
August 17, 2013

Leading Lines



The performance of a Yabi troupe from the Department of Child Development and Family Studies, Tzu Chi University.

Photo by Li Chia-I

March 12, 2013

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold the Buddha Day Ceremony in Nantun District,
Taichung City.
Photo by Ku Ting-He
May 11, 2008

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold the
Buddha Day Ceremony in
Nantun District, Taichung City.
Photo by Huang Hsiao-Che
May 8, 2011

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold the Year-end Blessing Ceremony in the Tainan area.

Photo by Huang Hsiao-Che
November 27, 2011

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold the Buddha Day Ceremony in Nantun District, Taichung City.
Photo by Ku Ting-He
May 11, 2014

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



The employees of Tzu Chi Foundation attend a training camp.
Photo by Pai Kun-Ting
December 17, 2011

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Entrepreneurs from all over the world attend the Still Thoughts Life Camp.

Photo by Chan Chin-Te

November 2, 2013

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold the Year-end Blessing Ceremony at Yunlin County Tzu Chi branch office.
Photo by Liao Hsueh-Yung
December 17, 2011

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a Buddha Day Ceremony at Tainan regional office.

Photo by Huang Yu-Ming

May 13, 2012

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold Lunar New Year celebrations. People gathered together to give their best wishes to one another at the Kaohsiung regional office.

Photo by Chuang Hui-Chen

February 5, 2012

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers seized the occasion of Senior Citizen's Day to hold an event and pay their respects to the elderly at the Tzu Chi Guandu Complex in Taipei, northern Taiwan.

Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming

October 4, 2008

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a Chinese New Year reunion meal at the Tzu Chi Guandu Complex in Taipei, northern Taiwan.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
January 7, 2012

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



The venue of the Year-end Blessing Ceremony at Xizhi Tzu Chi branch office in New Taipei City.
Photo by Pai Kun-Ting
November 26, 2011

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



Goods are packaged up for winter distribution in the Changhua regional office.

Photo by Huang Cheng-Liao

January 7, 2012

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



The Water Repentances Sutra Performance in Taipei Arena.
Photo by Wang Hsien-Huang
August 14, 2011

Layering, Linear Perspective, Depth of Field, Size Matters



A grand and solemn Buddha Day Ceremony is held at the National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei.

Photo by Fu Ku-Ming

May 12, 2014

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



The Tzu Chi relief team distributes rice to people in North Korea.
Photo by Hsiao Yao-Hua
December 18, 2011

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Shanlin Great Love community on the northern outskirts of Kaohsiung.
Photo by Liu Sen-Yun
January 31, 2010

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Students from Pope Paul VI College visit the Tzu Chi recycling station at Luzhu township, Taoyuan County, Taiwan.
Photo by Chen Yu-Ping
December 20, 2013

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



The damage caused by the Ya'an earthquake in Sichuan Province, China.

Photo by Hsiao Yao-Hua
April 25, 2013

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Shifang City was one of the hardest hit areas by the Sichuan Earthquake. Buildings collapsed in the tremor.

Photo by Hsiao Yao-Hua
May 22, 2008

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi volunteers visiting Pasay City to survey the damage caused by fire in Philippines.
Photo by Huang Kung-Kung
December 20, 2007

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi volunteers making home visits and relief distribution in Nantou City after Typhoon Saola.
Photo by Chien Hung-Cheng
August 4, 2012

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a Buddha Day ceremony at the Taiwan Nursing Home Association in Erlun township, Yunlin County.

Photo by Liao Hsueh-Yung

May 1, 2014

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi volunteers conduct a winter aid distributions in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho.

Photo by Chen Mei-Chuan

June 1, 2013

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi volunteers from Xindian District, New Taipei City and Wenshan District, Taipei City hold an activity together to welcome the newly certified Tzu Chi commissioners and Tzu Cheng members.

Photo by Wang Hsien-Huang

January 20, 2008

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



The Water Repentances Sutra Performance in Taichung.
Photo by Ku Ting-He
August 20, 2011

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi volunteers have a reunion meal with people in Luodian County, Guizhou Province, China.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
January 13, 2013

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi Children's Achievement Class in Xiluo Township, Yunlin County.
Photo by Liao Hsueh-Yung
June 3, 2012

Golden Ratio, the Rule of Thirds, Symmetry



Tzu Chi volunteers visit a nursing home to provide heartwarming interaction in Luzhu Township, Taoyuan County.

Photo by Chen Yu-Ping

November 7, 2013

Contrast, Farming a Subject

Johannes Itten Contrasts

dot/line	Light/Dark	Still/Moving
plane/volume	Black/White	Light/Heavy
plane/line	Many/Few	Transparent/opaque
line/volume	Straight/Curved	Continuous/Intermittent
Large/Small	Pointed/Blunt	Liquid/Solid
High/Low	Level/Vertical	Sweet/Sour
Long/Short	Diagonal/rounded	Strong/Weak
Broad/narrow	Smooth/Rough	Loud/Soft
Thick/Thin	Hard/Soft	

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Tzu Chi foundation holding a winter aid distribution in Xiangcheng District, Zhangzhou City, Fujian Province, China. A volunteer rubbing the chapped hand from one of the recipients with petroleum jelly.

Photo by Huang Ya-Hui

December 18, 2012

Contrast, Farming a Subject



One volunteer from a Tzu Chi relief team in Haiti giving one quake survivor child a hug.
Photo by Chen Ching-Wang
March 30, 2010

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a distribution to victims of Hurricane Sandy in New York State, U.S.A.
Photo by Lin Chin-Cheng
December 2, 2012

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Volunteers take part in the 2012 Overseas Tzu Chi volunteer training camp. Tzu Chi volunteers have a sincere prayer hoping that the world would be filled with peace and be free from future disasters.

Photo by Wang Hsien-Huang

December 2, 2012

Contrast, Farming a Subject



The Water Repentances Sutra Performance in Taipei Arena.
Photo by Wang Hsien-Huang
August 12, 2011

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Tzu Chi volunteers visit a nursing home provide a heartwarming interaction in Xiluo Township, Yunlin County.

Photo by Liao Hsueh-Yung

January 3, 2014

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Tzu Chi Foundation holds the Lunar Calendar July Blessing Ceremony at the Jing Si Hall in Hualien.

Photo by Chen Yu-Yen
August 31, 2013

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Volunteers from Yunlin, Chiayi and Tainan counties participate in the Tzu Chi Commissioners and Tzu Cheng Faith Corps Certification Training Camp.

Photo by Huang Wei-Jan

March 15, 2009

Contrast, Farming a Subject



The disaster situation after being hit by the earthquake and tsunami in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

Photo by Hsiao Yao-Hua

April 2, 2011

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Hsu Li-Hsiang, a member of a Tzu Chi relief team, looking at the debris with sorrow.

Photo by Wang Peng-Fen

April 1, 2011

Contrast, Farming a Subject



The disaster situation in New York State, U.S.A. devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

Photo by Lin Chin-Cheng

December 2, 2012

Contrast, Farming a Subject



The damage caused by the Ya'an earthquake in Sichuan Province, China.

Photo by Hsiao Yao-Hua
May 2, 2013

Contrast, Farming a Subject



Students from this Luoshui school return to their classroom to save textbooks after the Ya'an earthquake in Sichuan Province, China. Photo by Hsiao Yao-Hua May 3, 2013

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers go to a prison to hold a book club once a week in Pingtung.

Photo by Tai Tui-Jen

November 2, 2012

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers from Lesotho visit an orphanage in Ladybrand, South Africa.
Photo by Tai Tui-Jen
October 3, 2006

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a tea party in Zhuoxi Township, Hualien County.
Photo by Lo Ming-Tao
December 30, 2012

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers doing recycling and promoting environmental protection to celebrate the New Year in Guiren District, Tainan City.
Photo by Lo Ming-Tao
December 31, 2012

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a Chinese New Year reunion meal at the Jing Si Abode in Hualien.

Photo by Hsu Jung-Hui

February 3, 2013

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi's youth basketball team and Tzu Chi Children's Achievement Class have an activity for grateful parents in Wenshan District, Taipei City.

Photo by Hsu Yao-Ming

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers visit care recipients in Wutai Township, Pingtung County, Taiwan.
Photo by Lin Yen-Huang
August 7, 2010

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Jing Si Bookstore volunteers ring the peace bell in a celebration of the fifth birthday of the Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital.

Photo by Tseng Famg-Jung
May 16, 2010

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi International Medical Association provides medical care for foreign workers.

Photo by Chen Li Shao-Min

October 13, 2013

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers receive donations from the survivors of the Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) during the international relief.
Photo by Chou Hsing-Hung
December 14, 2012

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



A Tzu Chi recycling volunteer in Shanhua District, Tainan City.
Photo by Huang Hsiao-Che
July 9, 2013

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a Buddha Day Ceremony at the Jing Si Hall in Kaohsiung.

Photo by Chuang Hui-Chen

May 13, 2012

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers doing a Buddha Day Ceremony rehearsal at the National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
May 1, 2011

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers help Typhoon Morakot victims clean up their mud-coated homes.

Photo by Wu Tsung-Min
August 22, 2009

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Before the end of the Tzu Chi Commissioners and Tzu Cheng Faith Corps Certification Training Camp, volunteers have a sincere prayer hoping that the world would be filled with peace and be free from future disasters. Photo by Tseng Fang-Jung November 3, 2005

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Before the time of the Dragon Boat Festival, as per tradition, volunteers made vegetarian *zongzi* (rice dumplings) for the festival to give as gifts to all families under Tzu Chi's care.

Photo by Lo Ming-Tao
June 7, 2013

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers help clean up a care recipient's house in Tainan.
Photo by Huang Wei-Jan
October 10, 2008

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers have a reunion meal with the people in Luodian County, Guizhou Province, China.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
January 14, 2008

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



The survey team of Tzu Chi Foundation visit Jiaxian Township, Kaohsiung County to assess the extent of damage and identify the kind of help can be offered the victims of Typhoon Morakot.

Photo by Lin Yen-Huang

August 19, 2008

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Cheng members doing a rehearsal for the presentation of "From Vow to Action" in front of the Jing Si Hall in Taichung.

Photo by Chien Hung-Cheng

January 6, 2013

Point of View: Shooting from Eye Level, Shooting from Below, Shooting from Above



Tzu Chi volunteers hold a distribution to victims of Hurricane Sandy in New York State, U.S.A.
Photo by Lin Chin-Cheng
September 8, 2013

Thank You