

# Better photos are just a few thoughts away!

## A How and Why Series

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When it comes to event and street photography, too many people fall into the “Good Enough” category. I feel this is wrong especially when just a little bit of thought could improve your photo.

Being that it's fairly easy to take multiple shots with digital photography, I highly suggest that you take an initial photograph then another just in case conditions change. At least you'll have something should things not pan out.

A few years back, I attended an Instrument Petting Zoo at a market fair. A local collage had several musical students bring instruments for people to get the feel of playing what they wanted mainly children. They got to try out various musical instruments. This brings out the love of music we all have in us and attempts to prepare the next generation of band and orchestra members.

My photography is done using the single shot mode being I was brought up in the analog world. This is where you have to think about what you wanted photographed in order to get it right in camera, at least I try. LoL.



Photo #1

In the first example photo you'll notice a child being instructed on a violin. Most will think of this as a very good photo but I told myself that it could be better!

Forgetting the finer details like color correcting and balance, a simple crop could be used to remove some of the unneeded clutter in the background. Also note the girl's hands are being positioned correctly on the instrument by the instructor. That shows action which is a big plus added to the story. Remember to get it right in the camera.

Notice the small hard to read sign at the top back left which indicates "Instrument Petting Zoo". For those with good eyes it tells you what the event is. A person in back talking to others with a surprised and fun look. Emotions add interest and is always a very good thing to include.

With just a 90 degree change of view, photo #2 shows a girl being instructed on a French Horn. It alleviated most of the background clutter seen in photo #1. That tells you to move around and when possible and look for a better angle.



Photo #2

Sometimes it isn't possible to find a better view. For those times remember to watch the background. You'll want a minimum amount of distraction, "trees", and other assorted things growing out of people's heads so-to-speak.

Depending on the reason you chose a particular photo, a tighter crop could help too. As seen in photo #2. This is something a photographer should always attempt to think about.

Photograph the subject with the final dimensions in mind. This is really not a requirement but it could help. Personally I'd not like it if later on I found that I didn't have enough room to fit the picture in the frame I purchased last week. Practice proper cropping in camera when possible so this doesn't become an issue.

Pay attention to what's happening. If you are able, study the event prior to arrival. Be prepared to catch something as it's about to happen.

When you are out and about, always know that every photo tell a story of some kind. Depending on your reason, a strong statement translates to quality. Knowing that, ask yourself "What's my story?"