

## Compositional Elements

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**UNITY** - elements look as though they belong together, also known as Harmony  
PROXIMITY - placing elements close together can create unity  
REPETITION - repeat elements or groups of elements to imply unity  
CONTINUATION - a line, edge, or direction flows from one form to the next

**UNITY and VARIETY** - employing slight changes between the forms to avoid visual boredom

**EMPHASIS/FOCAL POINT** - most important element in a design is called the focal point, this is what you want the viewer to respond to

by CONTRAST - one element is noticeably different from others  
by ISOLATION - one element is visually separated from others by distance  
by PLACEMENT - other elements seem to point to one element  
lack of FOCAL POINT - purposely not utilizing a focal point, anti-climatic

**BALANCE** - equal distribution of visual weight

SYMMETRICAL - repetition of forms across a vertical or horizontal axis  
ASYMMETRICAL - dissimilar objects that share a visual weight  
by VALUE - contrast between light and dark  
by SHAPE/TEXTURE - variation in shape or texture between similar elements  
by POSITION - i.e. a heavy item placed towards the center is balanced by a smaller item placed towards the edge  
RADIAL - all elements radiate out from a single point  
by PATTERN - uniform balance is achieved by patterning

**SCALE/PROPORTION** - relative size - whether the piece itself is large or small  
within Work - are all of the elements roughly the same size, do they over- or under-whelm the size of the piece  
as CONFUSION - purposely mismanaging proportion

**RHYTHM** - the visual movement of the piece

And MOTION - how one's eye moves over the piece  
Alternating - successive patterns where elements appear in a regular order  
Progressive - sequential pattern, i.e. regular and recognizable change

**LINE** - mark made on the surface of a piece, has length and width

**SHAPE** - visually perceived area in a piece, defined by line or changes in tone

**TEXTURE** - surface quality of a line or shape; either implied or real

**ILLUSION OF SPACE/DEPTH** - use of perspective or overlapping to imply illusion of 3-D space

**ILLUSION OF MOTION** - use of repetition, fuzziness of outlines, or multiple images to imply motion

**VALUE** - simply the artistic term for light and dark