

# 1.11 RULE OF THIRDS

Simply defined, the Rule of Thirds is a basic rule of photographic composition. It states: "Divide the frame into thirds both horizontally and vertically and the subject goes at the intersection of any two lines." In other words, imagine a tic-tac-toe board. The subject in a picture should go at the intersection of any two lines.

Here is an example.

**RULE OF THIRD**  
*Divide the frame into thirds both horizontally and vertically and the subject goes at the intersection of any two lines.*



PHOTO BY ROB BRADLEY, ©2006 NCSU STUDENT MEDIA  
 Jessie Stewart, playing the role of Marty in "Grease," sings "Freddy My Love" to tell her friends what she says to a guy in a letter who sends her presents.

**DIRECTIONS:** Below are three pictures. Evaluate them regarding their use of the Rule of Thirds by drawing the appropriate lines on each image. Does the subject fall at the intersection of any two lines?



Baseball photo by Pete Ellis; Fan photo by Pete Ellis; Sailing photo by Nathan Bullen. All photos ©2007 NCSU Student Media

Now, on your own, find a picture that does NOT follow the Rule of Thirds. Should it? If so, indicate the cropping instructions to make it conform to the Rule of Thirds if possible.