MAKING A PICTURE

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CAMERA

CONTENT OF TALK

- INITIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PICTURE

- COMPOSITION

- EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

- ATYPICAL EXPOSURES

- DEPTH OF FIELD

- GENERAL HINTS

SOME INITIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK

What is the main subject?

Do you want it in it's environment or isolated from it?

Do you want to show movement or freeze it?

Is the exposure atypical?

COMPOSITION

GENERAL

- Ensure subject features prominently in frame.

- Allow room for subject to "breathe".

- Avoid distractions especially on edges.

- Rule of thirds.

LIVING CREATURES

- Make eye contact.

- Ensure eyes visible and in focus.

- More space above head than below feet.

- Have them looking into, not out of, picture.

- Give them room to move into picture.

COMPOSITION (CONTINUED)

LANDSCAPES

- Provide foreground interest.

- Keep horizons level.

- Maximise depth of field.

- Use a tripod.

Ensure subject features prominently in frame.

Wrong

Right

Allow room for subject to "breathe".

Wrong

Right

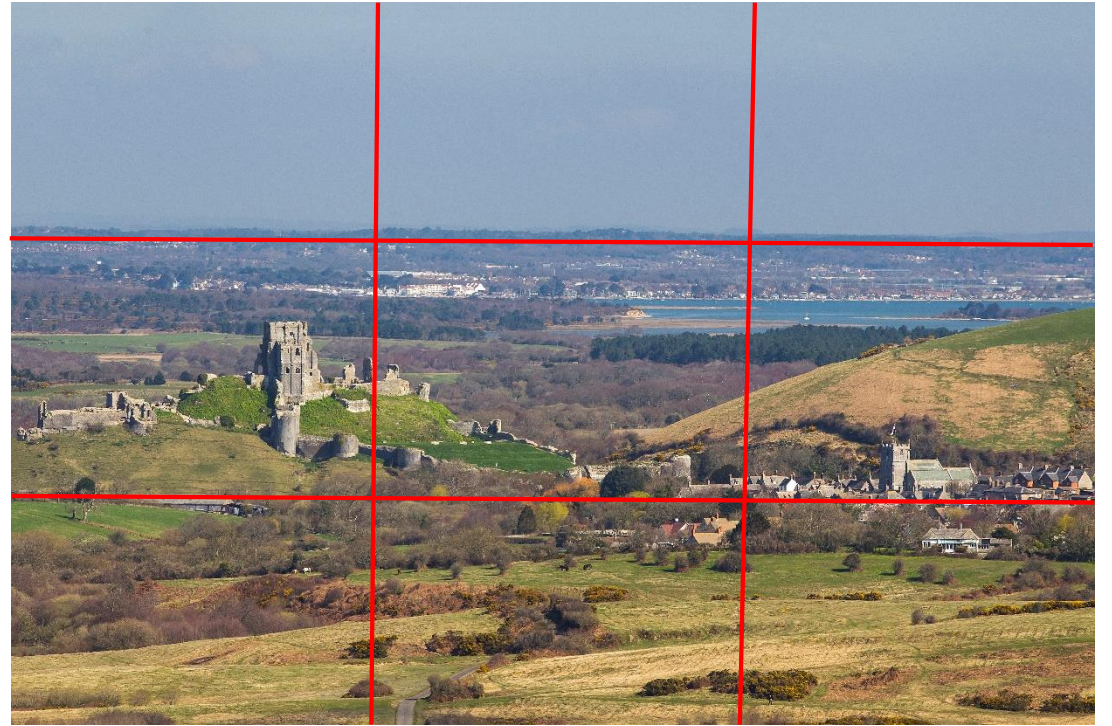# Avoid distractions (especially on edges).

Wrong

Right

Rule of thirds.

Result

Thirds

Make eye contact.

Wrong

Right

Ensure eyes are visible / in focus.

Wrong

Right

More space above head than below feet.

Wrong

Right

Have them looking into, not out of, picture.

Wrong

Right

Give them room to move into picture.

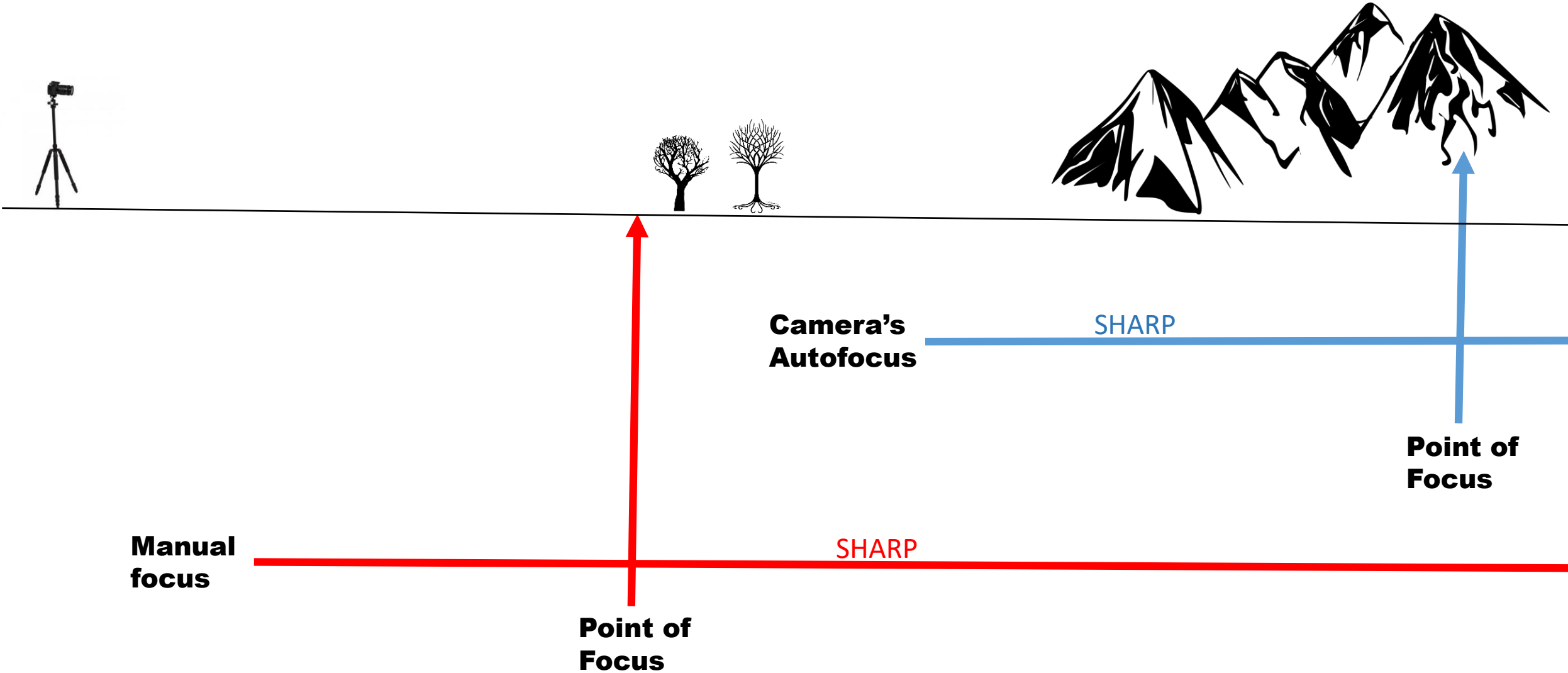**Wrong**   **Right**
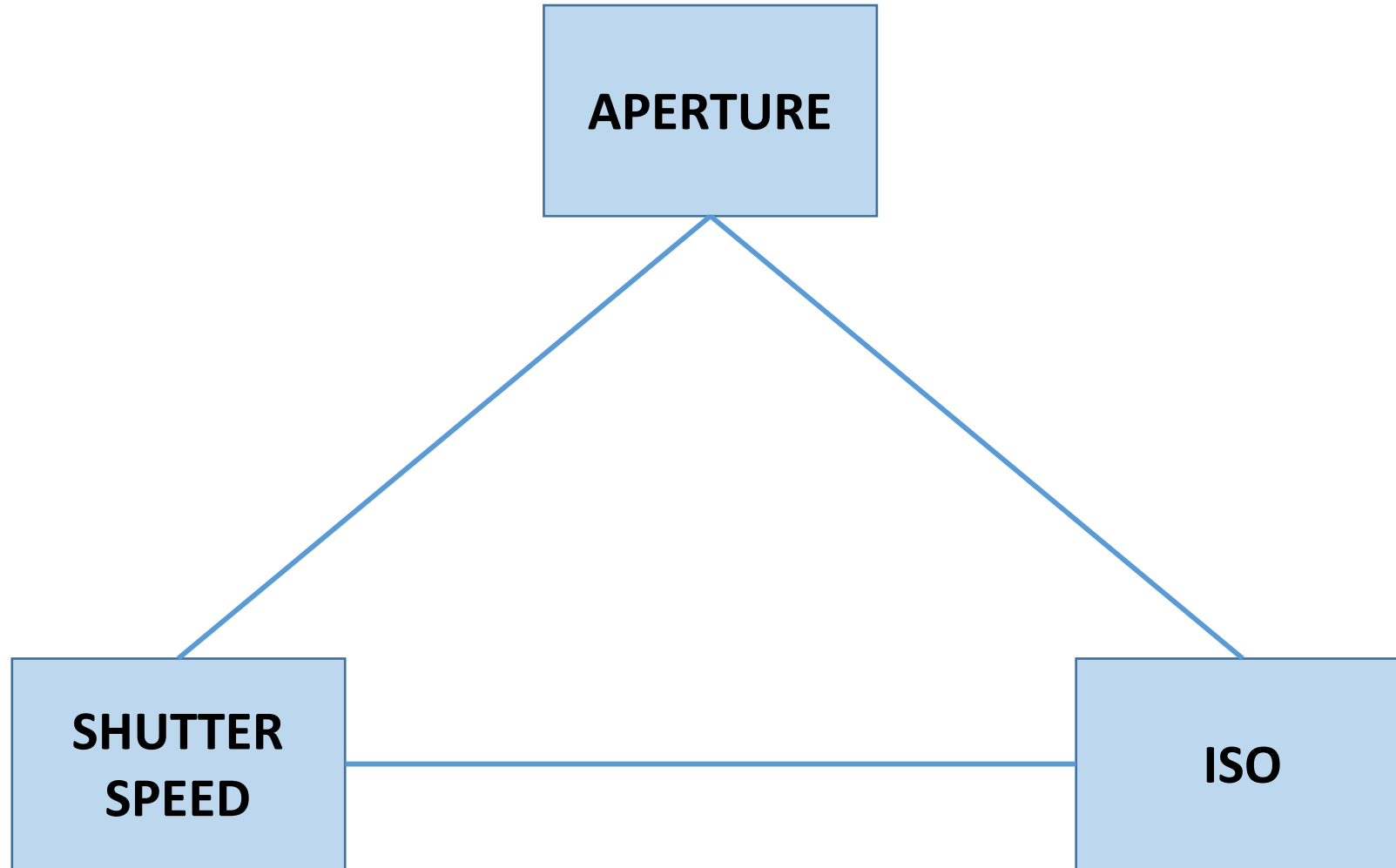
Provide foreground interest.

Obvious

More subtle

Maximise Depth of Field.

Camera's
Autofocus
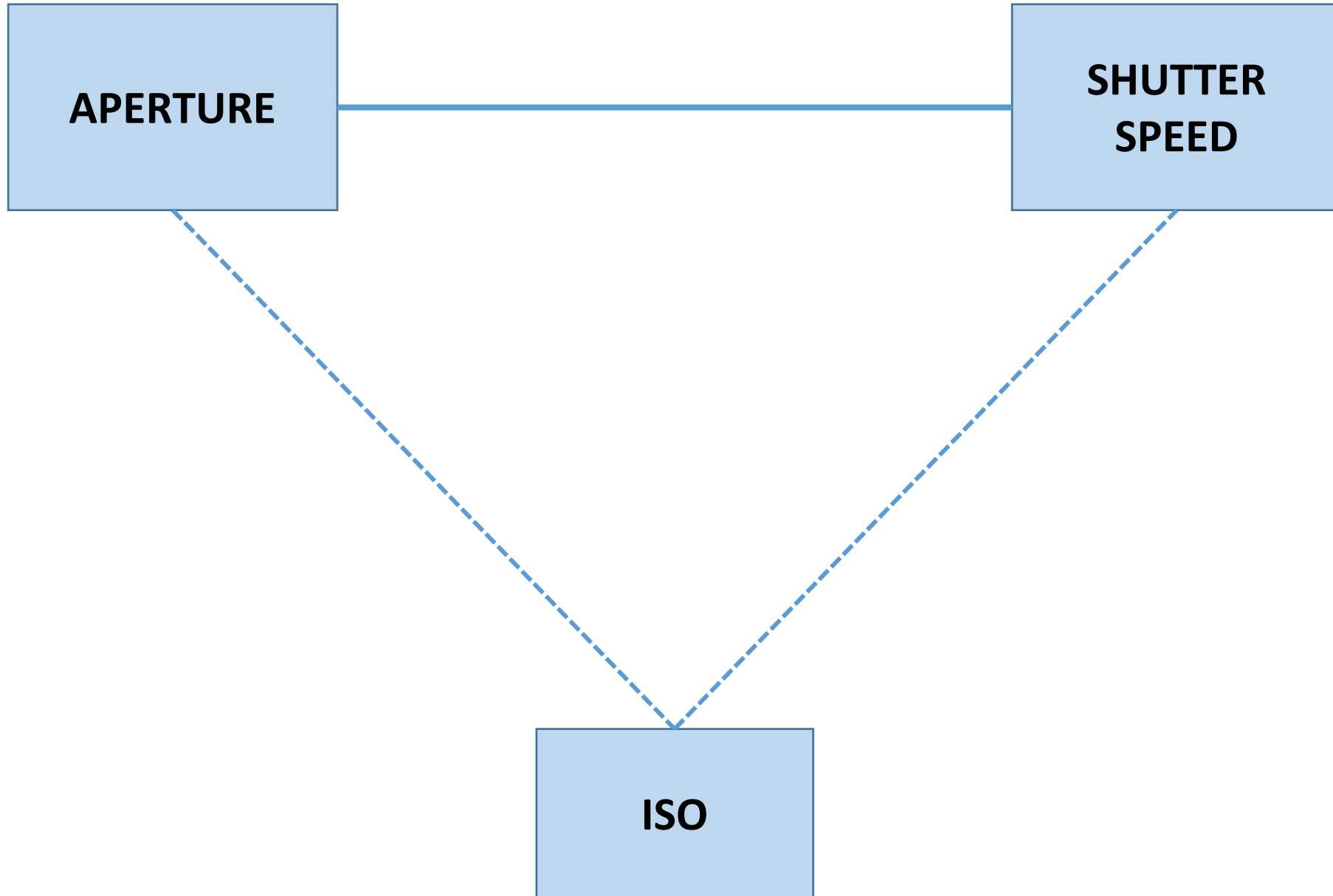
SHARP

Point of
Focus

Manual
focus

SHARP

Point of
Focus

EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

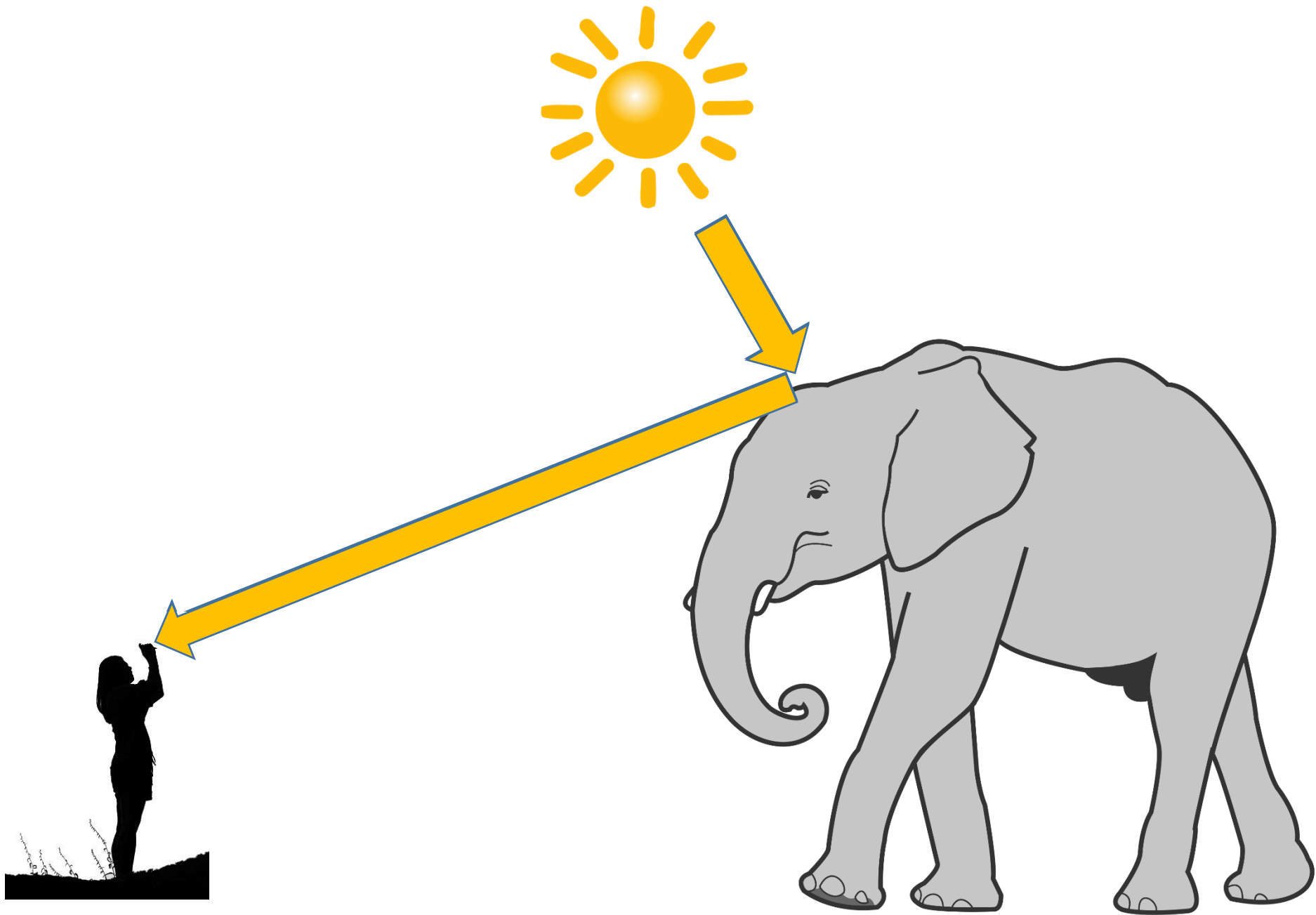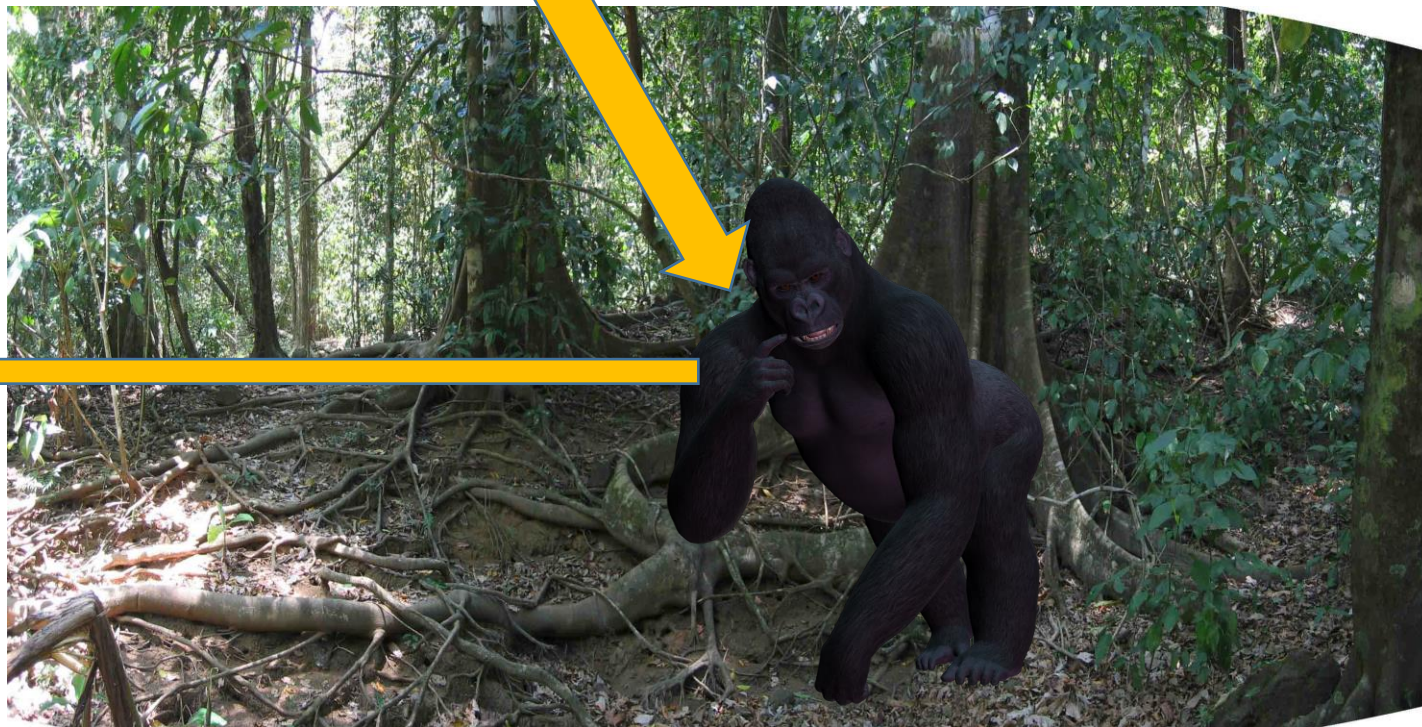# VARIATION ON EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

EXPOSURE

- Scene is mid-tones <u>on average</u>.

- Scene is predominantly black.

- Scene is predominantly white.

- Scene has wide contrasts.

CAMERA EXPOSES CORRECTLY

CAMERA OVEREXPOSES

CAMERA UNDEREXPOSES

EXPOSURE – WIDE CONTRASTS.

- Change position.

- Flash gun.

- Reflector.

- Photoshop (lighten shadows – darken highlights).

- Bracket exposures and merge pictures ("HDR").

Wide contrasts – Photoshop.

Before Photoshop

After Photoshop

WIDE CONTRAST - HDR

Windows right

Flag right

Effigy right

Combined - HDR

SHUTTER SPEED

- Lens is long.

- Lens is short.

- Subject is stationary.

- Subject is moving slowly.

- Subject is moving fast.

SHUTTER SPEED

- **Lens is long.** 500mm lens = 1/500th of a second shutter.
- **Lens is short.** Let aperture dictate. Ensure can hand hold (at least 1/60th second) or tripod.
- **Subject is stationary.** Let aperture dictate. Ensure can hand hold (at least 1/60th second) or tripod.
- **Subject is moving slowly.** Freeze motion with 1/250th of a second or faster shutter.
- **Subject is moving fast.** Freeze motion (and blur background) by 1/1000th or faster and panning.

SHARPNESS / FOCUS

- Depth of Field.

- Choice of lens.

- Shutter speed.

- Image stabilisation / vibration reduction.

- Tripod / bean bag.

- Auto focus.

- Manual focus.

Depth of Field (aperture)

F 4   F 8   F16
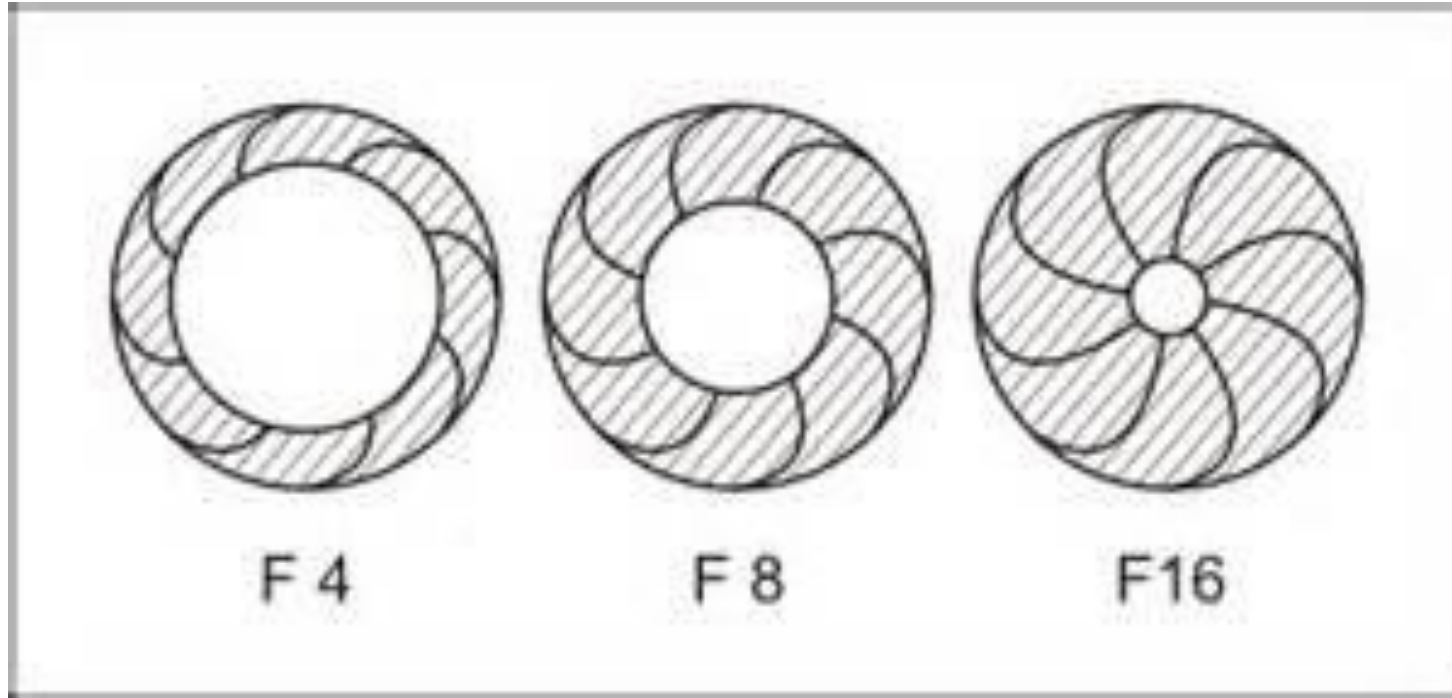
**Larger f number = smaller hole (aperture).
Smaller aperture = greater depth of field.**

Depth of Field (aperture)

135mm lens @ f2.8

135mm lens @ f18

Choice of lens.

135mm lens @ f8

20mm lens @ f8

Choice of lens.

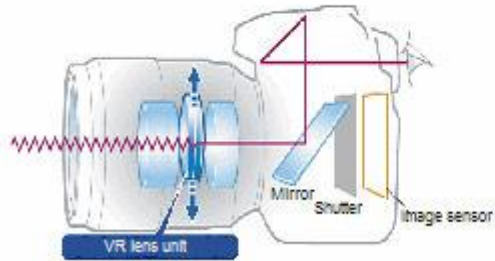**135mm lens @ f8**

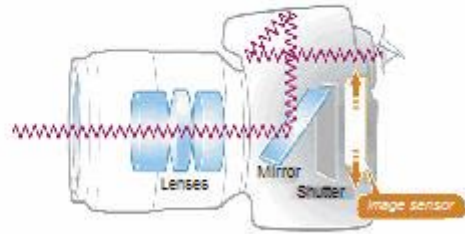**20mm lens @ f8 (Cropped for clarity)**

Image Stabilisation.

1. Can be on lens or sensor.

2. Can control up & down (1) or that plus left & right (2).

3. Except on tripod always leave it on.

GENERAL HINTS

- Take lots of pictures – its free!

- Charge the battery beforehand.

- Take a spare battery.

- Check the lens is clean.

- Carry plenty of (fast) cards.

- Use the lens hood.

- Shoot in JPEG and RAW.

- Use the tripod where practical.

- Utilise at least the basics of Photoshop.

Don't hesitate to increase the ISO. Grainy is better than no picture at all.

My first ever rhino. In pitch darkness at 102,000 ISO!