

TEST YOUR Skills

Design Beautiful Pages— Effective Framing

Test Your Skills Challenge 3

by Jen White

Highlight Framing Test

Remember this scrapbook page?

In the second Effective Framing video, I talked about how you could use an independent frame to highlight the subject of a photo. I'll refer to this as "highlight framing."

A huge part of highlight framing is about starting off with the right kind of photo. To determine if a particular photo is good for highlight framing, I've created a little test.

Step One: Ask yourself, "What is the subject of the photo?"

Step Two: Put the photo to the test.

This is a good choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills 1/3 to 1/2 of the photo

This is a bad choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills the photo (too big)
- the subject is zoomed way out (too small)

Let's work together to apply this test to several different photos.



Step One: Ask yourself, “What is the subject of the photo?”

Step Two: Put the photo to the test.

This is a good choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills 1/3 to 1/2 of the photo

This is a bad choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills the photo (too big)
- the subject is zoomed way out (too small)

Challenge

Is this a good photo to use with highlight framing? Put the photo through the test and then decide.



Answer: This is a beautiful photo, but no, it's not good for this technique.

Explanation: I think the subject of this photo is the forest. Since the subject fills the entire photo, this is not a good photo for the highlight framing technique.

Could you make it work? No, not for the highlight framing technique. Sometimes zooming out on the photo will make the subject smaller, but in this case, I don't think zooming out would help. You would just see more of the forest.



Answer

This is a beautiful photo, but no, it's not good for this technique.

Explanation: I think the subject of this photo is the forest. Since the subject fills the entire photo, this is not a good photo for the highlight framing technique.

Could you make it work? No, not for the highlight framing technique. Sometimes zooming out on the photo will make the subject smaller, but in this case, I don't think zooming out would help. You would just see more of the forest.



Let's take a look at another photo.

Step One: Ask yourself, "What is the subject of the photo?"

Step Two: Put the photo to the test.

This is a good choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills 1/3 to 1/2 of the photo

This is a bad choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills the photo (too big)
- the subject is zoomed way out (too small)

Challenge

Is this the kind of photo to use with the highlight framing technique?
Put the photo to the test.



Answer

Very cool photo, but it would not work well for highlight framing at this zoom.

Explanation: I think the subject of this photo is the barn. Since the barn does not fill 1/3 to 1/2 of the photo, this is not a good photo for the highlight framing technique. The barn is too small.

Could you make it work? Yes. The photo would pass the test if the barn filled a much larger portion of the photo.



Here's another photo.

Step One: Ask yourself, "What is the subject of the photo?"

Step Two: Put the photo to the test.

This is a good choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills 1/3 to 1/2 of the photo

This is a bad choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills the photo (too big)
- the subject is zoomed way out (too small)

Challenge

Is this the kind of photo to use with the highlight framing technique? Put the photo to the test.



Answer

Yes. This is a GREAT photo to use with highlight framing.

Explanation: I think the subject of this photo is the girl. The combination of the girl's head and the dog's head fills approximately half of the photo. This is a good photo for the highlight framing technique.



Let's take a look at this photo.

Step One: Ask yourself, "What is the subject of the photo?"

Step Two: Put the photo to the test.

This is a good choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills 1/3 to 1/2 of the photo

This is a bad choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills the photo (too big)
- the subject is zoomed way out (too small)

Challenge

Is this the kind of photo to use with the highlight framing technique?
Put the photo to the test.



Answer

This photo would be great for other framing techniques, but not the highlight framing technique.

Explanation: I think the subject of this photo is the man and woman. But, they are too small.

Could you make it work? Yes. The photo would pass the test if it were more zoomed in.



Let's look at one more example.

Step One: Ask yourself, "What is the subject of the photo?"

Step Two: Put the photo to the test.

This is a good choice for highlight framing if:

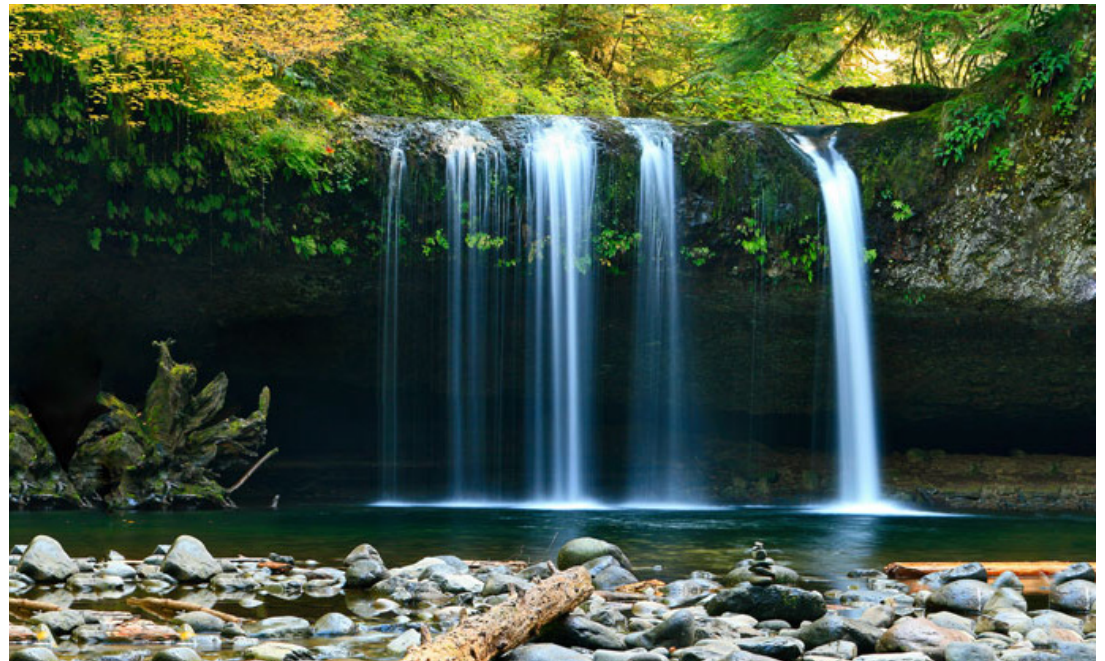
- the subject fills 1/3 to 1/2 of the photo

This is a bad choice for highlight framing if:

- the subject fills the photo (too big)
- the subject is zoomed way out (too small)

Challenge

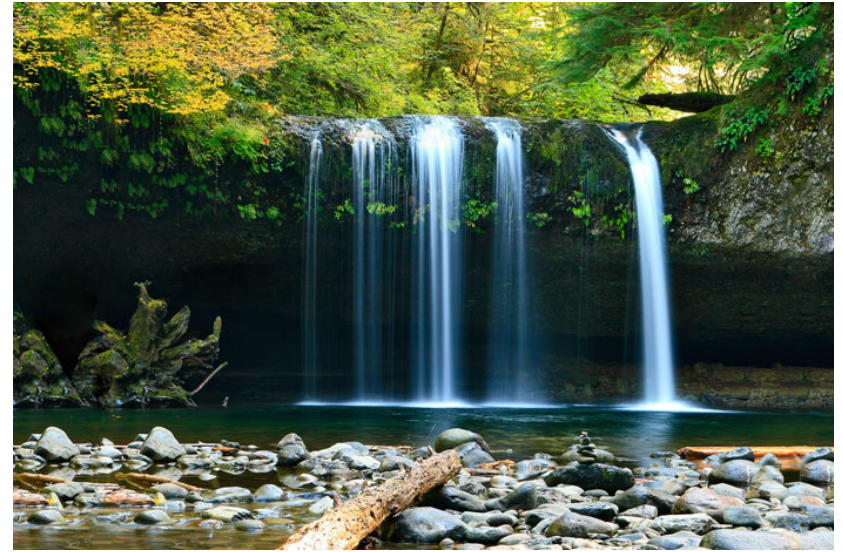
Is this the kind of photo to use with the highlight framing technique?
Put the photo to the test.



Answer

Yes, this photo would be good for this technique.

Explanation: I think the subject of this photo is the waterfalls. The falls make up approximately 1/2 of the photo, so this would be a good photo to use for the highlight framing technique.



Here is how I would frame the images we just tested.

Wrap Up

- Trapped space can be so simple to alleviate. It just takes a little thought
- You have a choice if your photos are focused and readable
- Not all photos are good for the highlight framing technique

Credits

Photos: Maarten Deckers, Thong Vo, Jon Flobrant, Joel Pilger, Yingchou Han, Scott Webb, Jeffery Workman, Andrea Reiman, Jen White

