

In photographs and films, several types of shots may be used to allow for a variety of views of the foreground and background:

In a **close-up shot**, the subject of the picture fills most of the picture or screen. We are able to see many details of the subject, and we can assume that the artist wants us to concentrate on the subject very closely.

A **medium shot** presents the subject of the picture in its setting. This type of shot can be used to show action because we can see the subject as well as the surroundings. The photographer may be suggesting that there are details in the background to help us understand the purpose of the picture.

A **long shot** is one that is taken from a distance. This includes pictures of scenery or settings rather than a particular person or animal in that setting. In this type of picture, the artist's message probably involves all elements of the shot.

In addition to choosing the distance from which to represent an idea or image, drawings, film, and videos can also use different angles that may make us think differently about the subject:

A **straight shot** allows us to look directly at the middle of the scene, as if we were face-to-face with the subject. This may make us feel that we have something in common with the subject or that we have the same perspective.

A **low camera angle** causes us to look up at the subject and makes the subject seem bigger or tall. This may make us feel that the subject is more powerful than we are.

A **high camera angle** causes us to look down at the subject and makes the subject seem smaller. This may make us think the subject is weaker than we are.