PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS
Rule of Thirds

- Don’t put your subjects in the center of the frame. Instead, put them on what is called a “thirds point.”

- Envision an imaginary 3x3 grid over your photo.

- Leave room in the direction subject is facing.
What are the first things your eye is drawn to in these photos?

Eyes are drawn to bright spots in photos. Watch for light sources, metallic objects and big light-colored objects. They’ll ruin your photo.
Maneuver yourself so that nothing is growing out of your subjects’ head from the background. Sometimes all it takes is a step to the left or right.

Tip: Don’t awkwardly chop off body parts, such as feet.
- Don’t put the sun behind your subject if you can.
- Main light should be in front of or at the side of your subject. Otherwise your subjects will be underexposed.
- You can sometimes remedy the situation with fill flash.
- Be aware of lighting situation in the environment.
The camera can be turned more than just horizontally. Try shooting verticals as well.

Give yourself wide, medium, and tight options, both of one thing and the scene as a whole.
Don’t forget scene setters. They give your shots context.
Think of the objects around you and how they are framing your subject. Think of unusual perspectives you wouldn’t ordinarily see.
Get down on the ground for shots. Stand on top of things. Get away from ordinary eye-level shots. Don’t be afraid to get extremely close to the action.

Shooting kids? Pets? Get down on their level.
Use the Right Lens

- Wide angles distort things and push your background further away from your subject. Telephotos compress distances. Choose your lens wisely.
Wide angles also distort facial features and sometimes include too much background. Try a telephoto instead to remove distracting elements behind your subject by blurring out the background.
Wait for the Decisive Moment

- You can’t just take one shot and walk away. Sometimes you have to wait for it. Don’t just snap away and leave after five minutes.
If you are unsure of how to write a caption, use this one as your guide. You should have complete ID information for subjects, and have a date and place as well. Don’t forget background information and a photo credit.

Shontel Sledge, left, 22, of Syracuse, and Norman Jock, 18, of Syracuse, wait to scare passers-by in one of the haunted houses at Fright Nights at the Fair on Friday, Oct. 10, 2008 at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, N.Y. The event is open every weekend in October through Nov. 1. Photo by Wasim Ahmad.
Everything here is a general guideline. There are circumstances where you will want to break the rules given here and it will work. Experiment. Play.