CROP TRADEOFF TEST

Every crop removes evidence.

Compare the cleaner frame with the context it loses before committing to a tighter version.

01	**Reason**	Identify the exact element that weakens the frame. A crop should solve a specific problem, not merely make the subject bigger.
02	**Gain**	Compare both versions at equal display size. Does attention arrive more clearly in the cropped frame?
03	**Loss**	Look for removed scale, direction or human relationships. A cleaner image may become less informative.
04	**Edges**	The new crop creates new edges. Inspect cut shapes, near-tangencies and bright corners again.
05	**Output**	Inspect the cropped file at its intended output size. Stronger composition can still be limited by too little remaining detail.

Worked example

Cropping a church above rooftops may remove an untidy corner but also remove the city that explains its height. Compare a tight landmark frame with a wider place frame and choose the job you need.

Keep in mind

Keep an uncropped master or reversible crop. Different publishing roles may need different boundaries.

Your decision

Problem removed

context lost

new edge problem

intended output

chosen crop

Adapted from the PhotoMind source manuscript, section 4.3, pp. 47-50. Examples and worksheet are editorial applications.