BACKGROUND QUIETING

Quiet the competition around the subject.

Check brightness, color, and texture in the surroundings before making the subject stronger.

01	**Compete**	Locate the specific bright, colorful or detailed area that takes attention away. Avoid treating the entire background as a problem.
02	**Light**	Try a modest local tonal reduction when brightness is the cause. Keep the direction and character of the original light.
03	**Color**	If color is the distraction, reduce that color selectively. Watch for unnatural gray islands or abrupt transitions.
04	**Texture**	Reduce local surface intensity only where it helps. Preserve enough environmental detail to explain the setting.
05	**Boundary**	Inspect mask transitions at detail size and the relationship at full size. The subject should still belong to the scene.

Worked example

A person watching a match shares the frame with signs, seats and a bright pitch. Quieting one distracting patch can restore attention to the gesture without making the person unnaturally luminous.

Keep in mind

Context is part of an environmental portrait. Keep the setting recognizable and avoid blurring away the reason the person is there.

Your decision

Competing patch

kind of distraction

smallest correction

edge check

context retained

Adapted from the PhotoMind source manuscript, section 8.3, pp. 147-150. Examples and worksheet are editorial applications.