PORTRAIT PLACE DISTANCE

Set portrait distance by the story you need.

A face, a gesture, and a person in a place ask for different amounts of space.

01	**Story**	Decide what the portrait should communicate first. This choice guides how much environment belongs around the person.
02	**Distance**	Change your position to balance person and surroundings. Then choose framing that preserves the intended relationship.
03	**Edges**	Avoid accidental cuts through important gestures. Keep enough room for the action to remain understandable.
04	**Light**	Check the light on the face or gesture that matters. A beautiful setting cannot compensate for missing human information.
05	**Context**	Retain an environmental element that explains where or why the moment happened. Remove unrelated clutter when possible.

Worked example

Two people crossing a snowy clearing gain scale and context from the landscape. A close crop might describe their gesture but lose the relationship with the open space. Keep the surroundings that explain the moment.

Keep in mind

Respect the subject's comfort and permission. A readable person does not require a close-up or direct eye contact.

Your decision

Portrait purpose

environmental clue

gesture to preserve

chosen distance

light check

Adapted from the PhotoMind source manuscript, section 9.5, pp. 179-184. Examples and worksheet are editorial applications.