The Rule of Thirds -
a composition tool that is accomplished by placing a main point of emphasis on any axes that is created by intersecting lines when your picture plane is divided by thirds both vertically and horizontally.

Use this rule to compose photographs that you take to submit for homework. This rule is the best way to compose any artwork so that it is well balanced and interesting.
This picture does not use the Rule of Thirds. The subject (emphasis) is in the middle of the frame. It is boring and dull.

This photo is balanced symmetrically:
(what is on the left is basically on the right)
Imagine this grid over your viewfinder or canvas or paper. The paper is divided into thirds each way equally.

An interesting (point of emphasis) subject/object should be placed on one of the red “+” areas. Other elements in the photo or picture should not distract from this main point of emphasis.
The subject is now in the correct place. This photo is composted by the Rule of Thirds.

The rule of thirds uses Asymmetrical Balance. Often blank space or other elements balance out the subject being more in the corner.
Not the best use of the Rule of Thirds:
That’s better! Imagine the grid lines on top.
This one uses the Rule of Thirds doubly well! It created an implied diagonal (connecting the birds).

Diagonals or slanted things are often much more interesting than straight things.

The main emphasis is the bird with the wings out.
Emphasis in the correct place + a crooked object = good composition.
Make sure your area of emphasis is obvious. Use blank (or not distracting) space around it.

Again, the area of emphasis in the correct place, and we have a diagonal.
The Rule of 3rds in advertising.
Does it use the rule?
This pretty much works, even though her face is not exactly on the axes. I like how a Triangle is formed from elbow to elbow to face. Triangles = Rule of 3rds.
Rule of 3rds.
Rule of 3rds.

I like the diagonals mixed with horizontals.

Where do you see diagonals?
What do you think, does it use the rule?
Does it use the rule?
Good composition is asymmetrical. It has one obvious point of emphasis, using the rule of thirds, and then your eye is drawn to look at all other areas of the picture.

The lines of this road draw your eye into the emphasis/cart, then the lines draw your eye down the path and make you wonder what is down behind the bushes. The road is diagonal, and the line of the sky is 1/3 down the page.
Does it use the rule? Yes, the girl is in line with the 1st line (of thirds), leaving 2/3rds more blank. The Diagonal of the wall and the waterfall make your eye move around to every part of the image after you are drawn in by the girl (white on darker background) as an emphasis.
Remember to move your camera around. Spend time getting the right composition.

Example B and C are both good. The dark area of the trees is 1/3 or 2/3 of the way up from the bottom. Remember that anything in the middle is bad/boring.