

Tips for Judging, Critiquing and Self-Assessing Photos

Impact & Interest

Does the image grab your attention and hold it?

Does the image appeal to the senses?

Does the image suggest mystery or intrigue?

Does the image provide a fresh and original view of the subject matter?

Does the image express a unifying thought or idea?

Does the image focus on one simple subject?

Does the image make the most of the available subject matter?

Is the image more than a mere snapshot?

Does the image achieve the creator's objective?

Does the image avoid being too busy or confusing?

If the image breaks with tradition, does this enhance the experience?

Viewpoint

Is the horizon level; are the verticals vertical?

Is the image free from unwanted perspective distortion?
Caused by tilting camera

Has the creator used a fresh viewpoint?

Does the viewpoint highlight the important features of the subject?

Does the viewpoint avoid unfortunate juxtapositions?
Lamp post sticking out of head

Has the best choice of low, normal or high viewpoint been made?

Does the viewpoint make best use of light and shadows?

Does the viewpoint minimize clutter and distractions?

Composition

Is the cropping appropriate for the subject?

Should the crop have been tighter?

Has the best format been used (vertical, horizontal, square, panorama)?

Is there space in front of animals, faces or transportation?

Space to move to

Does the composition lead the eye to the main subject?

Through the use of lines and curves

Does the main subject stand out from the background?

Contrasting color, brightness or focus

Does the composition avoid the "bull's eye effect"?

Main subject offset from center

Does the image make good use of forms, patterns and textures?

Does the image convey a sense of depth?

Shadows, perspective, selective focus

Color

Was the best choice made from color, black-and-white or sepia?

Is the white balance correct?

No yellow, orange or green cast

Are color saturation levels appropriate?

Has appropriate use been made of contrasting and complementary colors?

Technique

Is the image free of barrel and pin-cushion distortion?

Common with very wide angle lenses

Does the image avoid lost detail in blown out highlights and dark shadows?

Is the image free of distracting reflections?

Is the main subject in sharp focus?