

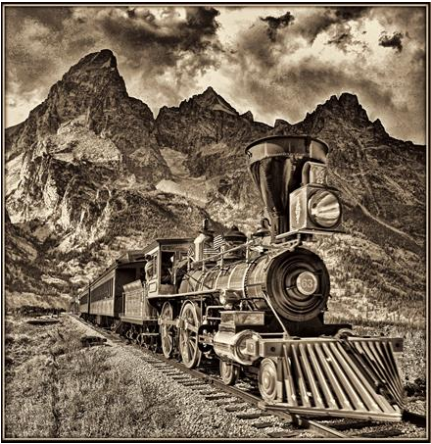
Camera Club Competition

The Truth about the Judge and the Jury

Presented by Bob Dietz

What is Fair Judging?

- ▶ When personal feelings about the subject matter do not enter into the decision regarding the scoring of an image
- ▶ When an image is judged strictly on it's own merit (or lack thereof)
- ▶ When the judging is **subjective**, not objective!



Judging Guidelines for Photographic Composition

1. Simplicity - uncluttered, one center of interest, have perspective control
2. Rules of Thirds - sense of direction, changes point of view, leaves space
3. Lines - curves/arcs, diagonals, leading lines, repeating, geometric
4. Balance - symmetrical (formal), non-symmetrical (informal), unify
5. Framing - foreground objects, trees/doors/lines
6. Mergers - simple unified background, avoid borders and horizontal mergers

Bottom Line: Effective Photographic Composition demands adequate planning and waiting for that precise moment to record the image you pre-visualized!

When Entering an Image in Competition Ask Yourself “Does my Image...”

- ▶ Make a Statement?
- ▶ Have a Title that tells the whole story?
- ▶ Say what you want to the Judges?

Bottom Line: Your Image has to say it all - it's the Only chance you have!



Judging Criteria Used for Images

Ask Yourself "Does my image..."

- ▶ Reflect good composition?
- ▶ Look like it is focused properly?
- ▶ Have impact or not?
- ▶ Have eye appeal?
- ▶ Have proper exposure?
- ▶ Convey a mood through use of color (or not)?
- ▶ Intentionally use soft focus?
- ▶ Have a **subject or center of interest**?
- ▶ Have enough separation between the subject and background?



Judging Criteria for a Photographer

Ask Yourself “Do I as the Photographer...”

- ▶ Make good use of leading lines to draw attention to the subject?
- ▶ Make good use of the Rule of Thirds?
- ▶ Make good use of color for emphasis?
- ▶ Crop the image well for the impact I want to make?



The Effects of a Score*

- ▶ Overuse of 5's
 - ▶ Photographer gets discouraged
 - ▶ 5's are even worse when the judge doesn't say anything good when critiquing
 - ▶ 5's are the worst when the judge doesn't offer tips on how the image can be improved
 - ▶ Bad news for bad judge - Judge won't be asked back
- ▶ Overuse of 9's
 - ▶ Photographer tends to think they are better than they are
 - ▶ Can cause a 'rude awakening' at CACCA
 - ▶ Judge is either new, easy, and unfair

Bottom line: New judges should use 7's and stay safe!

* Based off an article written by Lynn Polyak - The Characteristics of Bad Judging!
Thank you!

How to Get a Low Score!

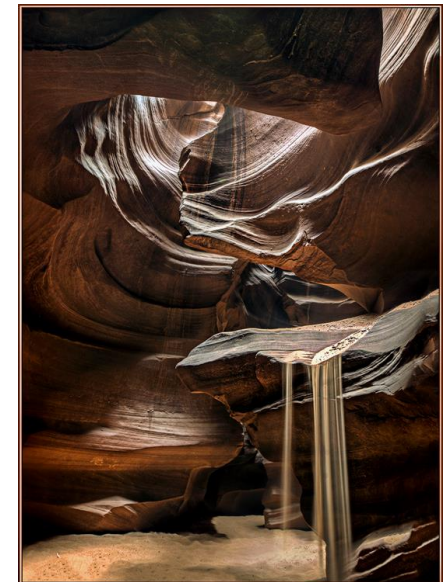
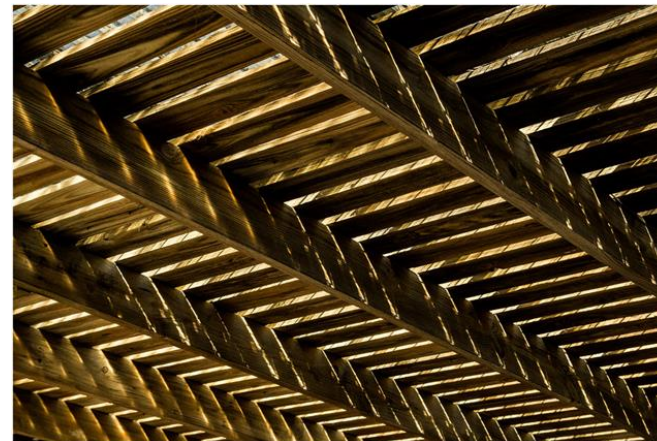
Ask Yourself “Is my image...”

- ▶ Poorly done with poor focusing, poor composition, improper exposure?
- ▶ Filled with technical problems such as hot spots or bad cropping?
- ▶ Filled with minor distractions and no center of interest?
- ▶ Technically okay but missing impact?

Most Common Causes for Errors

Ask Yourself...

1. Are you close enough? Get in close. **Fill up the frame!**
2. What's in the background? Keep it free and uncluttered.
3. Are **the lines** distorted? Consider if they are **planned** or not.
4. Is shutter speed correct? Hold steady and level and pan to stop action.
5. What's in my Viewfinder? Don't chop heads or elements integral to image.



How to Get a High Score!

Ask yourself “Is my image...”

- ▶ Technically correct plus full of impact that knocks your socks off?
- ▶ Filled with the ‘wow’ factor?



For Better Pictures

- ▶ When using adjustable cameras, bracket the exposures.
- ▶ Put snap and contrast into image by using flash
- ▶ Close one eye
- ▶ Look for designs and patterns
- ▶ Try silhouettes
- ▶ **Shoot color in open shade**
- ▶ Overcast days are best for shooting color
- ▶ Use fast film in dim light
- ▶ Always check for bothersome shadows
- ▶ Shadows can also enhance an image
- ▶ Shadows falling off a subject's face are not attractive!



Things to Remember

- ▶ Clean edges look better under lights
- ▶ Place a slight vignette around the image to hold viewer's interest
- ▶ Don't pick your image on what is hot
- ▶ Don't get in a rut by always going with the same subject
- ▶ Always use print competition to make yourself better
- ▶ Participate or observe as many competitions that you can
- ▶ Bottom Line: Become better at the thing you love to do!



Check List

- ▶ Is lens securely in place?
- ▶ Is lens clean?
- ▶ Is the ISO set on camera, flash and light meter?
- ▶ Is all equipment clean and dust free?
- ▶ Are the batteries okay?
- ▶ Are you using a lens shade? If so, is it correct for the lens.
- ▶ Is the camera stored in a cool, dry place?



Keep the Camera Steady

- ▶ Follow BRASS
 - ▶ Breath
 - ▶ Relax
 - ▶ Aim (Focus)
 - ▶ Slack
 - ▶ Squeeze
- ▶ The number one reason for images to become ruined - unsteady hand!
- ▶ The slightest shake will result in loss of sharpness or a blurring effect.
- ▶ Keep steady!



Judging Landscapes

1. The Technical

1. Level
2. Sharpness
3. Exposure
4. Saturation

2. The Composition

1. Foreground
2. Focal Point/Center of Interest
3. Creative use of Light
4. Leading Lines
5. Framing
6. Rules of Thirds

3. The Impact/ WOW Factor



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

Thank You!

Any Questions??