

## Recommendations for the Critiquee

Choose a picture where:

- You set out to achieve something specific
- You're not sure whether you nailed it
- You're certain it's not your very best shot

Say something about:

- The context and intention
- The content
- Did it work?
- What would I do differently?
- Ask a question(s) about what you want to learn

## Recommendations for the Critiquer

- Understanding the intention
- Assessing the content, composition, aesthetic and technical (in relation to the the intention)

# Criteria for Critique

## Content

The image has impact.

The image tells a story.

The image shows originality.

The image has interesting content.

The image captures action or captures the 'moment'.

## Composition

The image has visual balance or intentional imbalance.

The image exhibits strong compositional elements eg leading lines, natural framing, thirds.

The image has been taken using an interesting angle/point of view.

Picture elements are well organised and emphasise the main point(s) of the image.

## Aesthetic

The image triggers an emotional response.

The image evokes atmosphere.

The image shows good use of light.

The image shows good use of colour/monochrome.

## Technical

The image is needle sharp where it needs to be.

Colour balance and quality are appropriate.

All tones are rendered appropriately with no unwanted clipping of highlights or shadows.

The chosen Depth of Field is appropriate and enhances the image.

Shutter speed has been used to good effect.

Post Processing has been applied appropriately.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Content</b>	<b>This section refers to the subject matter of the image.</b>
The image has impact.	This is your initial, instinctive reaction to the image. It may refer to the visual impact of the image or the nature of the subject matter.
The image tells a story.	This is relatively self-explanatory but it should take account of whether the story is told well or whether it's a story that is worth telling.
The image shows originality.	The photographer has photographed the subject in a way which sets the image apart and which shows a different way of seeing.
The image has interesting content.	This is very subjective but the image should contain content which many will find interesting.
The image captures action or captures the 'moment'.	Action can be defined as movement of any kind within the image. The 'moment' is the critical point of any action. It can refer to actions as diverse as the way a person's expression changes when they react to something or a racing motorbike on the apex of a corner.
<b>Composition</b>	<b>This section refers to the way the photographer has chosen to arrange and present the subject matter of the image.</b>
The image has visual balance or intentional imbalance.	Harmony and discord can both be used effectively in photography. One is pleasing on the eye while the other creates tension and drama. Both are equally valid. The main consideration is whether the nature of the balance suits the image.
The image exhibits strong compositional elements eg leading lines, natural framing, thirds.	Is there evidence of such elements being used effectively.
The image has been taken using an interesting angle/point of view.	In itself, an interesting angle of view isn't necessarily beneficial. It should add some value to the subject of the photo.
Picture elements are well organised and emphasise the main point(s) of the image.	Good composition will force the viewer to look where the photographer wants them to look. There should be no distracting picture elements.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Aesthetic</b>	<b>This section refers to the way the photographer has interpreted the subject through his/her use of aspects such as light and shadow, colour and sharpness/softness.</b>
The image triggers an emotional response.	Self-explanatory
The image evokes atmosphere.	The image gives you a sense of what it was like to be there.
The image shows good use of light.	Self-explanatory
The image shows good use of colour/monochrome.	Self-explanatory
<b>Technical</b>	<b>This section refers to the techniques employed by the photographer when taking and then post-processing the photograph.</b>
The image is needle sharp where it needs to be.	This refers to the accuracy of the focus point and whether there is any evidence of camera shake. Bear in mind that a lack of sharpness may well be deliberate and part of the photographer's intention.
Colour balance and quality are appropriate.	Are the colours natural and/or do they work with the subject. Are there unwanted colour casts or unintentional muddy colours.
All tones are rendered appropriately with no unwanted clipping of highlights or shadows.	This refers to the exposure chosen by the photographer and the subsequent post-processing.
The chosen Depth of Field is appropriate and enhances the image.	The amount of an image which is in sharp focus is largely within the control of the photographer. The key point here is whether the combination of sharp/unsharp areas of the image makes it better.
Shutter speed has been used to good effect.	This will apply where there is movement in the subject of the photo or where long exposure techniques have been used.
Post Processing has been applied appropriately.	Post-processing is essential for RAW files and, when used well, can significantly improve the original image. Equally it can spoil many photos. Examples of poor processing include seeing the 'joins', over-saturated or bizarre colours, extreme contrast, overuse of 'special effects' etc.
The image is clean and well-presented with no noise, fringing or dust spots.	Self-explanatory