

# Judging Photography

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# Judging Photography

3 categories:

1. Technical – were the correct values put into the camera?
2. Composition – is the photo artistically pleasing?
3. Story/Impact – subjective so difficult to judge

# Judging Photography

## 1. Technical

- Focus
- Depth of field
- Exposure
- White balance

# Judging Photography

- **Focus**
  - ✓ Is the photo sharp and crisp?
  - ✓ Should it be? Would a soft focus add to the atmosphere, story?



# Judging Photography

- **Depth of Field**
  - ✓ Is the entire photo in focus?
  - ✓ Is the main object all in focus?
  - ✓ Would it be better if the background were out of focus? Bokeh
  - ✓ In a landscape, does it look flat or is there something to show the depth of field, e.g. a person, a foreground object?



# Judging Photography

- **Exposure**
  - ✓ Is the photo too dark?
  - ✓ Is the photo washed out, over-exposed?
  - ✓ Is there unintended motion blur?
  - ✓ Has motion blur been overdone?
  - ✓ Was a tripod used for a long exposure?



# Judging Photography

- **White Balance**
  - ✓ Does the photo have a colour cast?
  - ✓ Do the colours look natural?



# Judging Photography

## 2. Composition

- Ideal shape of photo?
- Is the horizon horizontal?
- Is the photo balanced or lopsided?
- Is the main object front and centre or has the Rule of Thirds been used to put it at the “sweet spot”?
- Is the viewer led into the photo?
- Does framing the subject add or detract from the photo?
- Is the photo cluttered? Should it be cropped?
- Is the lighting ideal?



# Judging Photography

- **Shape of Photo**
  - ✓ Has the ideal shape been used?
  - ✓ Vertical vs. Horizontal (Portrait vs. Landscape)
  - ✓ Square vs. Rectangle vs. Panorama



# Judging Photography

- **Level**
  - ✓ Is the horizon horizontal?



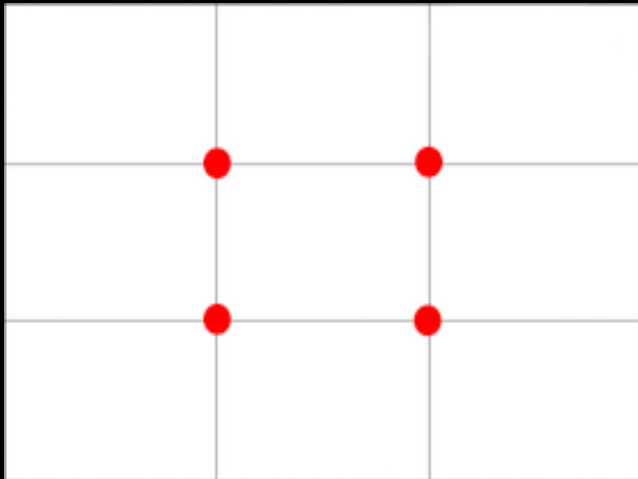
# Judging Photography

- **Balanced Photo**
  - ✓ Does the photo look unbalanced?
  - ✓ Does the photo look top-heavy?



# Judging Photography

- **Rule of Thirds**
  - ✓ Putting the subject always at the centre of the photo can be boring
  - ✓ More impact if the subject is at a “sweet spot”



# Judging Photography

- **Leading Lines**
  - ✓ Is the viewer drawn into the photo?



# Judging Photography

- **Framing**
  - ✓ Does framing add to or detract from the photo?



# Judging Photography

- **Cropping**
  - ✓ Does the photo look cluttered?
  - ✓ Are objects distracting from the main subject?
  - ✓ Is there too much sky?
  - ✓ Is there too much foreground?



# Judging Photography

- **Lighting**
  - ✓ Is the lighting ideal?
  - ✓ Is it the best time of day?
  - ✓ Are there distracting shadows?
  - ✓ Is the lighting too harsh? Too much sun or flash?
  - ✓ Is the lighting too flat? Should a flash have been used?
  - ✓ Would back-lighting be more interesting?





# Judging Photography

## 3. Story/Impact

- Does the photo have atmosphere??
- Is there a story?
- Does the photo make an impact?



# Judging Photography

Photo Number	Technical Score	Composition Score	Impact Score	Total Score	Comments
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
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9					
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11					
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25					

# Judging Photography

**Always look for the good points as well as the bad.**

**Judging is not just criticism; it is also positive input.**

**So tell people what they did right, then what was wrong.**