

Photo Critique Checklist

1. **Intent** - Could any viewer look at this photo and KNOW what you had in mind?
2. **Emotional Impact** - Can this photo be described with words of emotion, like peace, calmness, anger, rage, joy, or sadness? Does your photo make an emotional statement?
3. **Center of interest** - When composing your images do you successfully direct your viewer's attention to a specific point? Would the viewer know where your center of interest is?
4. **Illusion of depth** - Have you used framing, balance, contrast, and other art concepts to make your image jump off the page, or does it just sit there?
5. **Subject/background contrast** - Shooting a portrait of someone with black hair against a black background is not usually a good idea. Does your subject stand out?
6. **Personal style** - Ansel Adams was known for extreme illusion of depth and all planes in very sharp focus. Jim Zuckerman is known for vibrant colors and simplified subjects within their natural setting. Henri Cartier-Bresson once said, "There is nothing in this world that does not have a decisive moment." How will others describe your unique approach?
7. **Selective focus** - Do you choose where the viewer will look? If the background is just as sharp as the foreground, things can become very visually confusing.
8. **Composition** - Do you consistently use the rule of thirds, formal or informal balance, and leading lines? Take control of where the viewer's eyes are most likely to fall in your image.
9. **Exposure** - Do you always shoot at whatever the camera says, or do you take control of the light? Can you see details in your shadows? Have you ever used a reflector or bounced a flash as opposed to straight on?
10. **Story telling** - Is there a feeling of movement within your image, or does it just sit there? Does it leave anything to the imagination, or is it just a statement of what is? If your image doesn't tell a story, there is no reason to give it a second glance. Great photos make you want to look again and again.