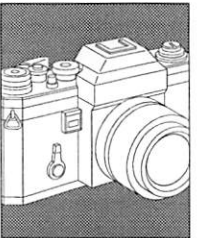


PHOTOGRAPHY



Photography Exhibit
Judges Score Card

Reason Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs to be Improved	Comments
1. COMPOSITION Pleasing Logical arrangement Balance Distractions				
2. STORYTELLING ABILITY One central idea or theme Idea grasped quickly and easily Idea shown simply and clearly				
3. PHOTOGRAPHIC (Technical Qualities) Lighting Exposure Camera angle Focus Distance from camera Movement				
4. MOUNTING Photo size Mat size Mounting board Mounting medium Label				

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITS

Judging Standards

COMPOSITION 40%

Composition is the arrangement of the main subject and all other objects in a picture
A good composition has no distractions or unnecessary elements in the picture
The subject should dominate the foreground or the background in the picture
It is important to know the effect the photographer is trying for (clutter, order, etc.)
The picture should contain all of the elements necessary to tell the story

STORY TELLING ABILITY 30%

The picture should tell a simple message
Focus on only one idea
Focus on an idea, event or a situation
When using a series of pictures to tell a story, it is possible to include what, when, where, how and who, this is usually too much information for effect in story telling

PHOTOGRAPHIC (TECHNICAL) QUALITY 20%

If print is processed commercially, there is no control of the photographic quality
Prints should be free of stains, crease, black or white spots or streaks
Prints should not have irregular edges or poor color balance
Blurring and distortion due to poor camera handling is not acceptable
Camera technique, film exposure, processing and printing effects the quality of a print
Overexposure or underexposure can result in loss of details in a print

MOUNTING 10%

Must be the correct size
Must be securely mounted using an approved mounting medium
Must mount on mat board or illustration board
Mat size and photo size must correspond
Label must be correctly attached

JUDGING STEPS

1. Check with the fair at which you are judging for details about their entry requirements. Make any necessary adjustments and notes in your procedures below. If the fair has no requirements, set a basic presentation standard. *i.e. all photographs should be 8 x 10, mounted squarely and neatly on a black artboard mount and clean.* Obviously in judging you will have to make adjustments according to the persons age. A young child would not be judged too strictly while a high school student would be considered slightly less than an adult.
2. Most fairs have divisions by age and type of photograph: *scenic, animal, portrait, children, sports, etc.* Grade photographs as "U" unacceptable - which is not in the ribbon category, "S" satisfactory - which is in the low end of ribbons third to fifth, "A" acceptable - which is either a first or second ribbon. Grand champions are only selected from the first place group.
3. Consider writing short notes to each contestant about what was good and bad about their image and what to do to correct any errors they have made photographically or compositionally. Use the hand-outs on composition and photography to help them. You will have to be prepared to explain any remarks you make or why a contestant received a ribbon.
4. At the judging, until you are competent in technique and composition, sort by your first impression. *Do you like it or not and why? The why is a good reason to write short notes for the large number of contestants.*
5. Sort by technique or technical quality
Is it properly exposed and developed (film and paper)?
Lighting
If they light it, is the quality of lighting good or bad, believable or fake?
If it is natural light, is the quality of the light good or bad?
Is it the best time of day for this subject?
Is it dirty?
Mounting goes with cleanliness
Is it in focus and is it sharp?
Even soft focus is sharp, only highlights are flared
6. Sort by compositional quality
Mentally impose a grid as a device to help you interpret the image
Look for horizontalness of the image and placement of the horizon line
Look at placement of subject
Look for leading lines - implied or not
Look for patterns, shapes, dominant colors, points

Do the visual elements relate?
Is there order within the frame?
Are the visual elements clear or confusing?
An elements size is an important interpretive part of the scene
Size relates to power, crowding, loneliness, insignificance, and isolation
Try squinting your eyes to see the graphic elements
For color photographs, a dark green filter tends to make it look more black and white

Are there elements that do not belong? (*compositional frames for example*)

Try visualizing the scene without some elements

Look for the flow of the scene - does it work or not?

Look for visual balance

Look for visual weight

Light tones imply delicacy or airiness, while dark tones imply heaviness or mass

Is there visual depth? (*foreground, middle-ground and background*)

What Judges Must Look For In Judging Photography

1. 8 by 10 photographs will be mounted in 11 by 14 mats
The mat should not detract from the photo nor should the mat blend in with photo.
2. No Photographer's name or initials should appear on picture or front of Mat.
3. Time and Date Stamps are not to appear on photos.
4. Standard photo paper, either Matte or Glassy is to be used.
5. Enhancement Paper (Metallic) is only acceptable in class requiring photo to be embellished.
6. Photoshop, less is more, Red eye removal, cropping, or angle adjustments are acceptable.

PRINT QUALITY

7. Photos printed at home, look for printer lines and other marks left on photo by the printer.
8. Is photo in focus ?
9. Is photo pixelated ?
10. Center of interest
11. Strong Image
12. Does Photo tell a story.
13. Did photographer use HDR ?