

PRINCE GEORGE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY:

A GUIDE FOR CRITIQUING PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES

Your comments should help the photographers improve their work. Be positive – comment on positive aspects of the photo and also provide suggestions for improvement.

Comment on all aspects of the photo -- technical quality, artistry and emotional impact.

Some things to consider about **TECHNICAL QUALITY**:

- Focus (sharpness or blur), depth of field, exposure, lighting, colors ...
- Does the photographer use techniques that compliment her/his intent?

Some things to consider about **COMPOSITION**:

- Balance, clarity, purpose ...
- Look for lines, shapes and other visual elements
- Does the photo have (or even need) a strong center of interest?
- Does the background add to the image or distract the viewer?
- Is the strength of the image its simplicity or its complexity?

Some things to consider about **EMOTIONAL APPEAL or “Wow Factor”**:

- Does the image attract your attention on first viewing?
- Does the image hold your attention?
- Is the image provocative, unusual?
- If the image is part of a contest, does it address the contest theme in a creative way?

Make an effort to understand what the photographer is trying to say. Don't suggest the photographer shoot the way you would have.

By all means draw on your own experience, but try not to let your personal preferences determine your comments. Feel free to suggest things such as using a polarizer (or not), a tripod, fill flash, a colour correcting filter, cropping, moving to a different location and so on where it might help the photographer produce a better image next time.

Conclude your remarks by giving the photo an overall score out of 10. The CAPA scoring system is:

- 1, 2, 3 - Extremely poor to poor, with serious faults
- 4, 5 - Fair, possibly minor faults
- 6, 7 - Good
- 8 - Excellent
- 9, 10 - Exceptional

Remember that our objective is to encourage members and not to discourage their efforts. 1, 2 and 3 should be rarely used. The score of an image that is technically good and generally pleasing should be 6 or 7 out of 10. Use 8 to 10 very sparingly.