



Association of Texas Photography Instructors
PHOTOGRAPH EVALUATION

In order to evaluate photographs on the same criteria, the Association of Texas Photography Instructors has developed this critique sheet to help both the judges and the photographers. This sheet should help photographers spot areas for improvement in their photographs according to this judge. The decision of the judge remains final.

FOR STUDENT TO COMPLETE:

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Camera

Model _____ Lens _____ Film _____ ISO _____

Lighting conditions : (circle one or more)

bright sun available, artificial light
partly cloudy flash
cloudy timed exposure

Enlarger

Exposure time _____ F/stop _____ Filter No. _____ Height _____

FOR INSTRUCTOR/JUDGE TO COMPLETE:

TECHNICAL QUALITY	Excellent		Average		Needs Work
	5	4	3	2	1

This includes the proper development of film (as evident in the print), proper exposure, good use of flash when needed, good use of available light when no flash is used, sharp focus and sharp action or action that is intentionally blurred.

Focus	5	4	3	2	1
Appropriate shutter speed	5	4	3	2	1
Lack of dust/fingerprints	5	4	3	2	1
No film/print processing errors	5	4	3	2	1
Appropriate print contrast	5	4	3	2	1
Appropriate print density	5	4	3	2	1
Appropriate quality/direction of light	5	4	3	2	1
Dodging/burning appropriate	5	4	3	2	1
Even/straight borders/full frame	5	4	3	2	1

FURTHER COMMENTS:

Technical Grade _____

• continued on the back

COMPOSITION**5 4 3 2 1**

For most photographs, this includes such things as the inclusion of repetition of shapes, leading lines, and curves. Simplicity means that the photo avoids unrelated subject matter within the frame. This could include filling the frame with the subject or using a simple background. This also includes the lack of mergers where one aspect of a photograph merges into another creating an unnatural look (such as a tree or pole growing out of a person's head). Rule-of-thirds can provide balance within a photograph by offsetting the subject from the center of the frame. The forms, lines, tones, textures, shapes, hues, patterns and balance within the photograph must contribute to good composition.

Use of Simplicity	5	4	3	2	1
Use of Rule-of-thirds/comp. guide.	5	4	3	2	1
Background/D.O.F. appropriate	5	4	3	2	1
Appropriate/Unusual point-of-view	5	4	3	2	1
Cropped properly	5	4	3	2	1

SUBJECT MATTER**5 4 3 2 1**

The subject of a photograph should be appropriate for the photographer's abilities and equipment. Shooting a college football game with a 50mm lens is generally a poor choice of subject matter, for example, as is shooting students in the halls with a 300mm lens. Furthermore, the subject should be visually respected. Photographers are not a part of the action when taking pictures at an event. They are part of the action in the studio. This should be clear from the photograph. An Environmental Portrait is not the same thing as a candid snapshot of a person. The subject matter must be appropriate for the assignment given.

STOPPING POWER**5 4 3 2 1**

People are constantly bombarded by visual images and a good photograph should attract the reader. It should engage the curiosity of the viewer. In order to do this, the photograph should be unusual in some manner so as to attract attention. However, the photographer should not resort to gimmickry to grab the attention of the viewer. Further, just as a photograph must be high in technical quality and show a good subject doing something unusual, it should also appeal to the emotions of the viewer. A good photograph will invoke the use of such adjectives as: warm, sensitive, lovely, beautiful, serene, lonely, angry and the like.

Originality	5	4	3	2	1
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MEANING**5 4 3 2 1**

Finally, a significant photograph must mean something. This is where the truly great photographs will shine above the rest. It's also where the most subjectivity comes in. A good photograph must do more than just record the event – it must give meaning to it. The photographer is working to communicate this meaning to the viewer. Just as a conductor interprets a piece of music, the photographer must provide their own interpretation to the image. It's this interpretation or meaning that gives "soul" to the photograph.

FURTHER COMMENTS:

Creative grade _____

FINAL GRADE OR FINAL PLACE (point total = 100 pts.) _____

Superior	100	Good	85	Below average	75
	98		80	Poor	70
Excellent	95			Unacceptable	60
	90				