

How to Critique a Photo

And Not Lose All Your Friends

Overview

- ▶ Critique the photo, not the photographer
- ▶ Include positive and negative opinions
- ▶ Make suggestions for future improvement
- ▶ Don't confuse a critique with criticism
- ▶ Use facts over opinion

Where to Begin

- ▶ Is there a clear center of interest?
- ▶ Is there anything distracting in the photo?
- ▶ Is the center of interest in focus? How's the depth of field?
- ▶ What's going on in the background?
- ▶ Did the photographer think about composition? Balance?
- ▶ Can the photo be improved in Photoshop?
- ▶ Are the colors correct?
- ▶ Is the photo cliché?
- ▶ How is the lighting?

Further

- ▶ Does the photo match the assignment?
- ▶ Does the photo tell a story?
- ▶ Does the photo invoke any emotion?
- ▶ Ask the photographer, "Why?"
- ▶ Keep a photographer's skill level in mind

What to Avoid

- ▶ Try not to use the following words: Nice, pretty, good – say if the photo *works*.
- ▶ Short sentences show little thought
- ▶ Don't backpedal – say what you mean and stick with it
- ▶ Avoid personal bias
- ▶ Don't make the critique about you