

## GUIDE FOR JUDGING PHOTOS

Use the basic rules of composition, technique and appeal as your bases for choosing the best photos.

### I. COMPOSITION – The arrangement of the subject on the print to best convey the meaning of the photo.

#### A. Strong subject

1. The subject should be isolated so you have no doubt what the subject is.
2. The background should be uncluttered.



#### B. Rule of thirds

1. Usually do not center the subject.
2. The horizon should be in the upper third or the lower third of the photo (**not in the middle**).
3. You should have one, two, or three points of interest (**not four!**) on the intersecting lines.



#### C. Lighting

1. *Frontlighting* – Light shining on the subject from the direction of the camera.



2. *Backlighting* -- Light shining on the subject from the direction opposite the camera (silhouettes and halos).



3. *Sidelighting* – Light striking the subject from the side of the camera (produces shadows and highlights – *texture*).



4. *Diffuse (flat) lighting* – cloudy day or in the shade (does not make shadows).



#### D. Focus

1. Main subject is usually in the sharpest focus.
2. The eyes should be in sharp focus when photographing people, animals or birds.
3. A soft focus can be used for special effects.



#### E. Shapes and lines in a photograph

1. Shapes such as S-curves and triangles are pleasing to the eye.
2. Use lines to lead into your subject.



#### F. Depth of Field – Area of the photo that is in focus

1. Shallow depth of field – subject in focus/foreground and background out of focus.
2. Large depth of field – subject, foreground and background all in focus.

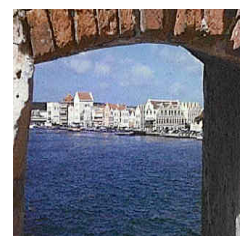
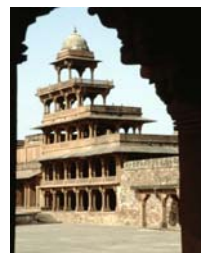


#### G. Filling the frame

1. Subject should usually fill the frame.
2. Use the camera horizontally or vertically depending on the shape of the subject.



#### H. Framing – using natural objects to make a frame for your subject.



I. Angles

1. Pictures of children or small animals should be taken at their level.



2. Pictures of buildings should be taken showing two sides to show depth.



II. TECHNIQUE – The manner in which the photo was enlarged, mounted and treated for best display.

- A. Print condition – Absence of dirt or scratches on print, absence of marks from dust or scratches on negative, correct rendition of color and correct contrast.
- B. Mounting – Mounting boards are clean, a permanent mount is used and mounting procedures conform to fair rules.

III. APPEAL – Not only how the photo appeals to you, but also how you think the photo would appeal to the majority of others.