

TVCC CRITIQUE NIGHT

PHOTO CRITIQUE PROCESS

OVERVIEW

TONIGHT

Sharing, teaching and exploring all aspects of photography are **key goals** of the Treasure Valley Camera Club.

Our "Photo Critique Night" is one way we **accomplish these goals**.

Each month, TVCC schedules a **Photo Critique Night** where members submit digital images for sharing and feedback.

Tonight we'll discuss **the purpose and possible procedures** for Photo Critique Night and TVCC members conducting the critique.

PHILOSOPHY

Many **TVCC Members**, when first volunteering for Critique Night, **may not know where to begin** when critiquing a photograph.

Some Members may even **feel that they are not "worthy"** to critique another's work. The fact is, **it doesn't matter** whether you are just starting out or are a seasoned professional.

There are **many different aspects of a photo** that you can comment on and **bring value to the photographer**.

PURPOSE

Help photographers **improve their work** through a better understanding and proficiency in the **technical aspects of photography** and the **theory of visual literacy**, all this while helping the photographer **maintain their individuality** and the **way of seeing**.

WHAT A CRITIQUE IS NOT

Our goal is not to offend others,
but to **be insightful**.

Be open to the photographer's own thought process
or logic and **see through their eyes**.

Not to change the photographer's
vision or style.

WHAT TO REMEMBER

Critiquing is not criticizing.

It's looking at another photographer's work
for the sole purpose of
assisting the photographer along
an **effective learning and growing path.**

CRITIQUE THE TECHNICALS

EXPOSURE

Is any area overexposed or underexposed? If so, can you say why you think that happened? How could the photographer prevent this problem in the future?

FOCUS

Is the main subject in focus? Is it sharp focus, or a "soft" focus? Is the focus appropriate for the situation?

DEPTH OF FIELD

Is the DOF shallow or deep? Does the DOF work in this shot, or should more (or less) of the photo be in focus?

LIGHTING/WHITE BALANCE

Is the light soft or harsh? Does the type of lighting enhance or detract from the things in the photo? Is the white balance set correctly? Is there a yellowish, orangish, or greenish cast to the photo?

CRITIQUE THE COMPOSTION

CENTERED VS RULE OF THIRDS

Is the main subject in the center of the frame? Is it on a third? Somewhere else? Does the chosen composition work, or could they have done something differently?

FORE, MIDDLE AND BACKGROUNDS

(Most applicable to landscape photos) Does the photo contain all three? If not, do you think it would be better if it did?

CROPPING/FRAMING

Is there wasted empty space in the photo? Should the crop have been tighter? Is it cropped so tightly that important parts of the photo have been cutoff?

COLOR/TONAL RANGE

What type of colors do you see? Did the photographer use a lot of primary colors? Secondary? Complementary? Are the colors too vivid? Not vivid enough? If you are looking at a B&W photo, is there a true black, true white, with a large tonal range in between, or is the photo too "gray"?

DIAGONALS, S-CURVES, ETC.

Did the photographer make use of any visually-interesting elements, such as diagonal lines or S-curves?

LEADING LINES

Do the lines and overall composition make you want to look deeper into the photo? Is your eye drawn into the photo, or out of it?

DARK VS LIGHT AREAS

Are there too many bright areas? Too many dark areas?

BALANCE

Is the photo "balanced"? Would it be better if there were other objects or other light/ dark areas in the frame to improve the balance? If the photo is off balance, is there a reason for it?

CRITIQUE THE VISION

LOGIC

Is the arrangement of the visual elements effective for the image's purpose/story?

PURPOSE

Is there a strong center of interest, pattern or design?

CLARITY

Is it simple, yet complete and without distracting elements?

EMOTIONAL IMPACT

The vital element for a truly great image, making it unique and memorable.

DYNAMIC

Does it grab and keep your attention? Does it have the 'wow' factor.

PROVACTIVE

Does it excite your imagination, or create a strong emotion in you?

CREATIVE

Does it show a familiar subject in a new, unusual and yet effective way?

UNUSUAL

Does it show a very unusual subject in an effective way?

FINAL THOUGHTS

REVIEW

- Be factual—not opinionated—educational
- Keep opinions about art to yourself
- Adjust your critique to the skill and achievement level of the photographer
- Point to both the good and the not so good aspects of the work
- Critique constructively—provide a balanced review
- It's not about you—it's about someone else's work
- Help them learn from your critique!

WORDS OF WISDOM

"There seems to be a general perception that "critique" means "to find fault with." It doesn't mean that at all. It means to critically analyze and respond to something, either positively or negatively, or both. Even when someone holds a camera in their hands for the first time, they have a lifetime of experience processing visual imagery. The success of an image in someone's eyes is how it works for them!"

~Rick Moore