**SELF-CRITIQUE**

**EXPOSURE:** How is your exposure?

* Too light?
* Too dark?
* Highlights blown out?
* Shadows blocked up/clipped?

**FOCUS:**

* Is the image properly focused?
* Point of focus – when taking photos of people/creatures/animals have you focused on the eye? Do you have a catch-light in the eye?
* Is there good use of depth of field?
* Is the image sharp? Do you want it to be?
	+ The subject area is sharp; blurred areas are an enhancement or not a fault.

**COMPOSITION:**

* Is the composition pleasing?
* Is the horizon straight?
* Is the background cluttered or busy?
* Is the foreground tidy?
	+ Are you shooting a landscape or natural scene where there might be branches or leaves or twigs in the foreground that could be cleaned away?
* Are there items in the frame that don’t belong or that distract?
	+ Are the edges of the frame clean? Is anything poking into the frame that distract the viewer? Are there elements of the image that lead the eye out of the frame that could be better positioned?
	+ Less is more – what truly needs to be in the frame? What can you leave out?
* Where is your eye drawn to when you first look at the image?
	+ How does the eye travel around the image? Where does it go first? Where does it end up? Is that the story you want to tell the viewer?
	+ Center of interest – When composing your images do you successfully direct your viewer’s attention to a specific point? Would the viewer know where your center of interest is?
* Does the photo have good balance?
	+ Balance is a compositional technique in photography that juxtaposes images within a frame so that the objects are of equal visual weight. When different parts of a photo command your attention equally, perfect balance is achieved

**GENERAL TECHNICAL QUALITY:**

* Does the image suffer from:
	+ camera shake
	+ color fringing/chromatic aberration
	+ too much noise
	+ over-processing
* Is the white balance correct?
* Is the image flat or is contrast in excess
* Is the color, amount and quality of light right for the image?
* Are there any distracting dust spots?

**IMPACT:**

* Does the image connect emotionally?
	+ Is the image powerful and evokes an immediate emotional response which is strong and lasting.
	+ Is it a strong, vivid, arresting image
	+ Is it a meaningful image
	+ Is it a beautiful image rather than merely pretty or interesting
	+ Is the subject matter well selected and portrayed.
* Is there a clear story line in the photo?
	+ Would you know just by looking at it what the photograph was about

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

* Evaluate your own images using this list and see if there’s any room for improvement. That is after all, the reason for doing critiques.
* When evaluating your own images**, do your best to detach from the image**; put yourself in someone else’s shoes and look at the image as if it was taken by someone else.
* If another photographer posted the image, what would you tell them?
* Mistakes help us grow…by allowing yourself to see the faults in your image, you can grow as a photographer.
* Love the photo for its strengths in spite of its weaknesses.

**ASK FOR HELP**:

* Image critiques from trusted sources can help you improve your photography.
* Find someone whose photography you respect and ask for advice. Then take the final step in this process: Don’t get defensive, listen, acknowledge, apply and move on.
* If critiques are done with good intention and the person giving the critique has genuine knowledge to share, everyone involved learns something, even the person giving the critique.