

## Tips On What Critique Is and Is Not

A good photo critique is/does:

- Polite. Be sensitive to how you say things and remember that we all experience the words of others differently.
- Geared toward the audience - recognize the experience level and capability of the submitter. There is no sense in talking about layers in levels in PS to someone that is just starting out in photography and only uses LR.
- An observation with a suggestion. "My eye is drawn off of the subject by the bright object in the corner. Toning that down would help to keep the focus on the subject of the photo."
- About what has been done well as well as what could be improved. Observe why they did well and explain how this helps. Reinforce what was done well. Don't make it all negative.
- Considers artistic vision and technical ability separately.
- Considers the context. Recognize the environment that the photographer had to work in and how well they were able to accomplish that. Tripods, flash etc. are not always an option in some environments.
- Avoids changing the photographer's concept. Although you may like a photo cropped differently does it change the concept or vision that the photographer indicated they had when taking the photo. The photographer's vision and objectives are not subject to review just how well they achieved that vision and objective.

A good photo critique is not/does not:

- A put-down - negative personal comments detract from the dialog and serve no useful purpose
- All about you - this is not a forum to demonstrate your expertise but rather give useful feedback to the submitter
- A short statement that offers no direction or suggestion. A simple "I don't like it." offers no insight to the photographer on what they could do to improve the photo.