Session 6: Adding Comments and Critiquing Photographs

Now that you have successfully uploaded your images to a photo sharing site, it’s time to share them with your peers! Adding comments and critiquing photos is an important step in the photography process and facilitates learning for every person involved in the critique session. Before you begin, here are some tips that will help you get the most out of your first critique session.

Questions to consider:
- Where are your eyes immediately drawn?
- What is the subject of the photo? How did you determine this?
- Is the subject in focus?
- What is happening in the background of the photo?
- Are there any distracting elements in the image?
- What elements of the image would you change?

When critiquing someone’s photos:
- Begin the session by complimenting the photographer and discussing the elements of the image that you appreciate as this is important in establishing a positive tone moving forward.
- Use specific terms when describing parts of the image that you like or do not like (e.g. lighting, framing, depth of field) so the photographer will better understand elements that can be improved upon.
- Remember that critiques are meant to be constructive, never negative. Only give meaningful suggestions to the photographer and avoid using negative words.

When receiving critique on your photos:
- Always remain positive when receiving critiques; your peers are merely sharing their suggestions and ultimately you can choose to accept them or not.
- Ask questions to probe your critiquers for more information about their suggestions.
- Take notes of any suggestions you are considering so you remember to improve upon them in the future.
Things to Consider

You can tell people what made that image appealing. Think about why that image is more successful than others. You may also add comments on how the photo may be improved.