

Critique – HOW TO GET THE RIGHT KIND OF FEEDBACK FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

Regardless of their level of expertise, **all photographers want feedback** on their work. Most of the time, though, the feedback we get doesn't match what we are looking for. We usually get **Reaction** to the work or **Direction** about what we could do differently, but what we really want is **Critique**; an engaged dialogue about the photographs we make.

There are **3** Types of Feedback

- 1** **Reaction:** "Wow! Great Image!" (*nice, but not helpful*)
- 2** **Direction:** "Good, but I would have used a wide angle lens" (*irritating & not helpful*)
- 3** **Critique:** Using Critical Thinking to engage in a dialogue about the photograph (*Ka-Ching! Helpful, Useful, Instructive*)

4 Steps to Critiquing a Photograph:

1- Describe

Describe the image: In complete sentences, list exactly what you see in the photograph, providing a literal description of things that are in the image.

2- Analyze

Analyze the image: Again using complete sentences, analyze the use of line, shape, form, value, color, texture, balance, emphasis, proportion, movement, rhythm and pattern, as well as analyzing any technical choices the photographer might have made.

3- Interpret

Interpret the image: Use the results from the first two steps to explain what you have described and analyzed. Come up with a sentence or two that clarifies what the photographer was trying to say.

4- Evaluate

Evaluate the image: Use complete sentences to make an evaluation of the success or overall value of the work, based on the information you have gathered about it. Support your evaluation with information from the first 3 steps, striving to be fair and logical.

For more cool stuff about creative process in photography, check out the Camera Position Podcast at www.cameraposition.com or find us in iTunes!