

A close-up photograph of a judge's face. The judge is wearing a black judicial robe and glasses. He has a serious, intense expression, looking directly at the camera. He is holding a wooden gavel in his right hand. The background shows a wooden panel and an American flag.

YOU be the Judge

Having your images judged by others

NECCC Club Judging Guidelines

1. Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc. - [Competition Information for Judges](#)
2. Flagpole Photographers Camera Club - [Judges Training](#)
3. Gateway Camera Club - [Guidelines for Judges](#)
4. Greater Lynn Photographic Association - [Helpful Instructions for the Print Judge](#)
5. Hockomock Digital Photographers - [Image Study Guidelines](#)
6. Housatonic Camera Club – [Peer Review Example](#)
7. Simsbury Camera Club - [Judging Process](#) and [Judge's "Scorecard" Divergence Report](#)
8. Springfield Photographic Society - [Exhibition Scoring Grid with Categories](#)

5 Seconds

What to look for in those 5 seconds

- Impact or evoke emotion
- Creative or something you haven't seen before
- Composition
- Subject Matter
- Exposure / Lighting
- Presentation

Some Realities of Judges/Judging

- **Personal bias**
- Actual or perceived skill level of them as a judge
- Actual or perceived skill level of them as a photographer
- How many times a person has judged
- Mood they are in that night
- Don't expect to get the "social media" response
- There is no silver bullet as to what every judge is looking for
- No standardization of what each score represents. It's up to each judge
- Judges can be amateur or pro photographers
- Does Judge know who photographer is
- Title of photo will sometimes make a difference
- How they are physically viewing the photo

Things to keep in mind when reacting to Scores and Comments

- It is okay to agree or disagree with them
- Don't take it personal
- Remember they weren't there when you took the photo
- The same photo can get totally different reaction with different set of judges
- Listen to and remember reoccurring comments
- Keep open mind to other opinions
- Photography is an Art Form and everyone will see it differently

So why submit images to be judged?

- The biggest reason is to using competitions as a learning experience.
- Often times you will find that judges see things (good and bad) in an image that you didn't.
- Don't forget to listen to scores and critique for photos that are not yours
- You should be able to track your progress as a photographer
- The more you hear certain things the more you will think about them as you are shooting and editing your photos

How are Judges Chosen for Flagpole?

- Reach out to local clubs and ask them to provide 3 judges
- There is no vetting process
 - Although we will ask to exclude a specific judge if we had a bad experience with one
- Often times person who judges is based more on availability more than anything else
- Remember that the majority of the judges we get are amateur\hobbyist photographers just like you and me.

Now you be the Judge

- Get out a piece of paper and pen/pencil
- Judge the following images from 1-5 (no 1/2's for this exercise)
 - Hold up fingers from one hand with your score
- Before we go to next image write down your score

Remember

- Strive to remove personal bias, such as, subject, specific technique, perceived difficulty or location knowledge
- Use the entire scoring scale to effectively differentiate photos
- Base the score on the merit of that individual photo
- Use consistent reasoning in evaluating photos



What did you score?
What comments would you like to
add?



What did you score?

This is the same model as previous photo. Did you score it differently?

Why?





What did you score?
What comments would you like to
add?



What did you score?

Would you have scored the previous image
different if you had seen this one prior?





What did you score?

What comments would you like to add?





What did you score?
What comments would you like to
add?



What did you score?

What comments would you like to add?

If this and last image were in the same competition do you think you would have scored each the same?





What did you score?
What comments would you like to
add?

Red Ford GT-40 at Governors Horse Guard in Newtown, 06470



What did you score?

Did the title make you change your
mind about your score?

Closing Comments

- Did your scores differ from others?
- Did your thoughts differ from the comments from others?
- Did you have any personal bias's that caused you to score or comment in a specific way?

Comments or questions?

Would you like to sign up to judge at other clubs?

