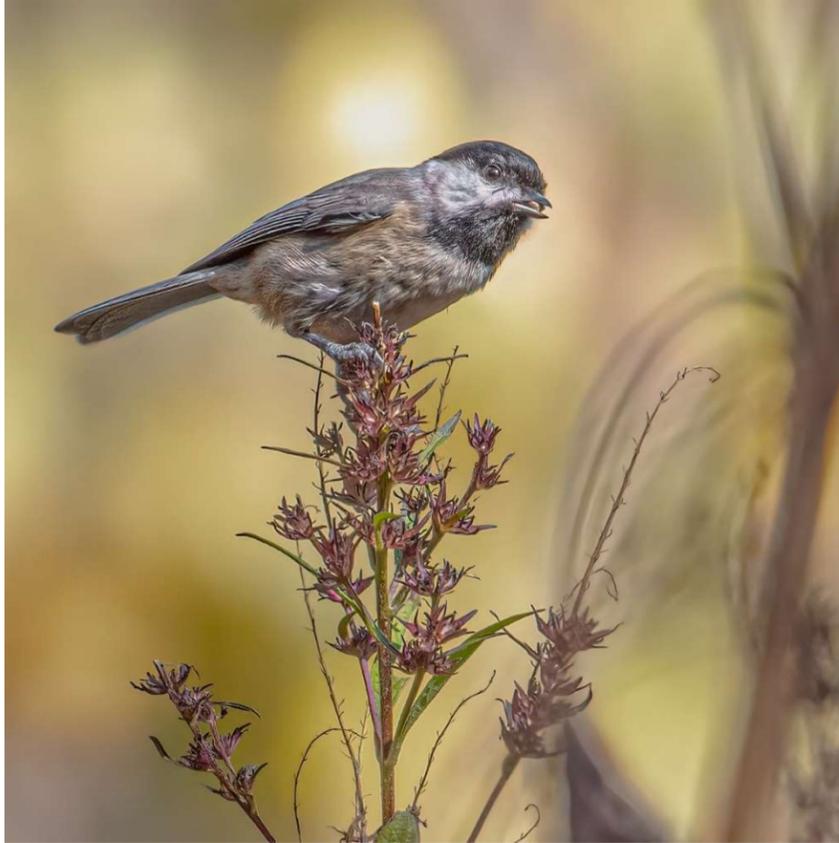
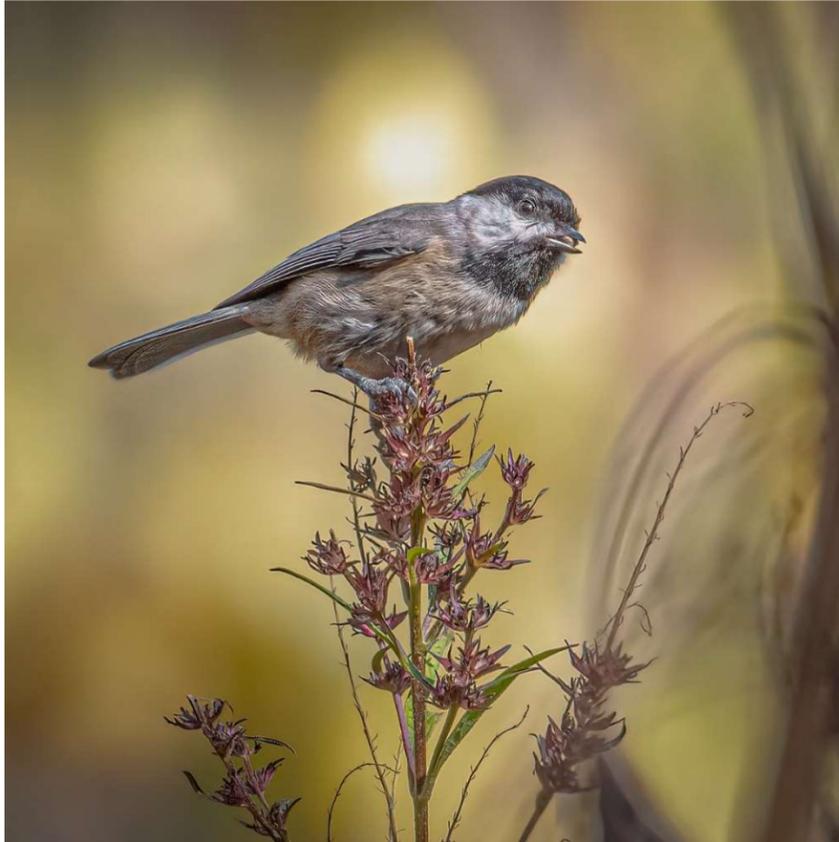


Chickadee Feeding

400mm, f/5.6, 1/1600, ISO-1250



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful Chickadee in a beautiful location. I love it when everything comes together. Good job!

Composition

There's really nothing to complain about here. I might have experimented with moving the bird/flower a little more to the right (toward the center), but that is clearly in the realm of personal taste. Finally, I think most photos benefit from a subtle, dark vignette.

Technical Quality

In a perfect world, this shot could have been made with a slower shutter and the resulting lower ISO, but with wildlife photography sometimes it's more important to take the shot than to tweak the settings.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. I really like that the mauve tones in the flowers seem to be picked up in the nicely-blurred background and even in the bird's feathers. You can't really plan on this happening, but it sure is nice when it does. Again ... good job 😊

Sunset on the Farm
21mm, f/8, 0.5 sec, ISO-200



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

What a gorgeous scene. I wish I could have been there!

Composition

Really nothing to complain about here. If I was going to be really picky (which I always am), the image looks just a hair crooked to my eye, so I might try rotating it a degree or so clockwise and see what you think. As always, I think most photos benefit from a slight, dark vignette.

Technical Quality

With this kind of shot, I would usually start at f/10-f/14 with base ISO (which you did) and use shutter speed to achieve proper exposure. But f/8 looks great here, so ... 😊

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. Just a wonderful shot!!

Wilting Dandelion
60mm, 1/160, f/5.6, ISO-200



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Dandelions are great subjects, wilted or not. There is so much detail to capture!

Composition

I think I would put the flower in the center for this shot ... just personal taste. As always, I think a slight, dark vignette helps focus the viewer on the subject.

Technical Quality

No real problems here, but since your background appears to be far enough away that it would be nicely blurred no matter what, I think I would have gone with more depth-of-field and tried to get the whole flower sharp. Maybe try several shots, gradually stopping down to f/16 or f/18. Of course, that might eventually require a tripod depending on the shutter speed. Just a thought.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. Nice work!

Adrift
500mm, 1/1000, f/8, ISO-2000



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Nice shot! I love it when the water gets that "molten metal" look.

Composition

Since it is apparently motionless (or almost), I think you could probably put the leaf anywhere in the frame and it would work. I really like that you got a shot where the leaf's reflection is in a smooth part of the water and relatively undistorted.

Technical Quality

My first thought is to try to get the ISO lower, but that's a judgement call. The R5s stabilization is really good and depth-of-field is not much of an issue here, so a slower shutter and wider aperture might have been possible. I know ... I'm being really picky 😊

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

The highlights on the leaf are blown out a little ... it happens. Live histograms or zebras in your EVF might alert you to this. Finally, one tip ... I have noticed that clipping the blacks just a little in post really enhances that "molten lead" look in the water. Good job!!

Star Trails and Bluebonnets

No EXIF Data



Original



Illustrated Comments (No change 😊)

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

I don't do much "astro," but I can imagine that a shot like this takes a lot of time, planning, and patience. Good job!

Composition

Good balance between foreground and back ground. The "void" in the center makes me a little uncomfortable, but I'm not sure what I would expect to see in there ... maybe a house or barn or something. Just thinking "out loud."

Technical Quality

Not sure how many shots it took to put this together, but I assume more than one 😊 Obvious technical skills!

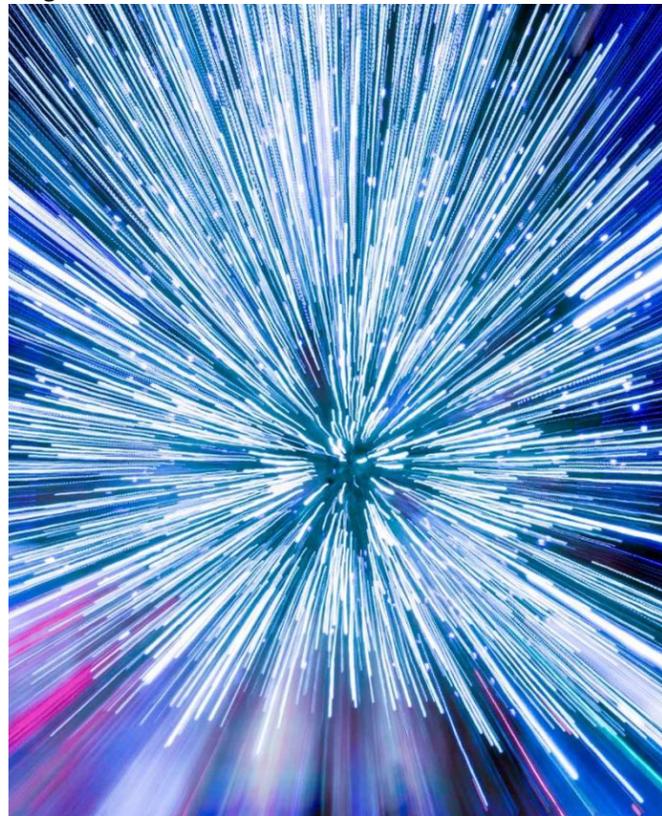
Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

The flowers seem nice and sharp as do the trails. Nice that you have complimentary blues in the stars and flowers.

Holiday Splendor
22mm, 1 sec, f/13, ISO-800



Original



Illustrated Comments (Just playin' around)

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Interesting abstract special effect!

Composition

You can do pretty much anything with this kind of image ... crop, rotate, etc. ... but it looks good as is.

Technical Quality

Good job!

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Again ... you could do pretty much anything with this image ... color changes, extreme sharpness or blur, centered or offset. I tried a color shift just for fun. FUN PHOTO!!

Gently Down the Stream
135mm, 1/125, f/10, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

I love photos of water in motion. There are so many things you can do with it.

Composition

I'm a little unsure what to look at. My eyes are drawn to the bright, in-focus spots, but I am uncomfortable that they are so close to the bottom of the frame. If I was going to work with this shot as is, I would crop in quite a bit from the top, brighten the overall image (boost exposure and shadows), and then use a dark vignette to draw attention to the in-focus area.

Technical Quality

The settings you used look good at first glance, but they resulted in an underexposed image. You would have to decide whether to compromise settings to correct it in camera or maybe just assume you could fix it in post processing. With today's cameras, underexposures are pretty forgiving and easy to correct.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Color and lighting are good, but the overall image seems underexposed. There are lots of nice details hidden in there 😊

Stopping By for a Sip
No EXIF Data



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Ya gotta love Monarchs. Nice shot!

Composition

We always strive for that blurred-out background, but for my tastes, this is almost too much of a good thing. I like to see a little texture or hint of what's in the background. For this shot, I would use a dark vignette to create a little variation in the background.

Not sure where it came from, but there is a distracting, bright "band" across the top of the image. You might be able to reduce/eliminate this with a linear gradient, but I would be tempted to just crop it out.

Technical Quality

I don't know what your settings were, but the depth-of-field is really shallow. If there was enough light to allow it, a narrower aperture might have been good to try. Just a thought. In any case, nice shot!

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good and natural looking 😊

Mandrill Stare
600mm, 1/640, f/6.3, ISO-3200



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Great shot! The Mandrill is my favorite subject at the zoo. I always spend lots of time with him.

Composition

I love the tight crop with him staring into the negative space. I would try a little dark vignette to see how it looks.

Technical Quality

Settings are about right. 3200 ISO is pretty high, but you seemed to have managed any noise very well. When I'm at the zoo and have time, I'll get some "safety" shots with normal settings, and then I'll try slower and slower shutter speeds all the way down to 1/100 at 600mm. Sometimes you get lucky 😊

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good! With a great shot like this, I would be tempted to play around ... texture/sharpness, vibrance, brightening the eyes for a little more intensity. You probably already have, but ...

Good job!

Wet and Hungry
116mm, 1/1000, f/6.3, ISO-4000



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Such a cute little guy. Wonder how he got wet 😊

Composition

The crop feels a little tight. I find myself wishing I could see a little more of the surroundings. Maybe a lower shooting angle would help with that too. I almost always like a little dark vignette.

Technical Quality

Nice and sharp. The settings look okay, but I bet you could have gotten this shot with a much slower shutter (and lower ISO) without any problems.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. I especially like all the textures of the wet fur. I played around with White Balance and Hues a little, but ended up just about where I started. Good job!

North American/Canadair F86 Sabre
17.7mm, 12 sec, f/5.6, 1/200



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Nice shot, dramatic processing!

Composition

I generally like the effect you applied. It works well on the plane, hangar, and tarmac, but the sky is really distracting to me. I tried blurring/softening the sky so it doesn't distract from the main subject ... the plane. I like it better. See what you think.

Technical Quality

Nice and sharp. I struggled with the geometry a bit. The whole photo feels like it's leaning left a bit. Oh well ... my OCD is a wonderful thing 😊

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Again ... nice and sharp. Exposure seems just right!

Carved in Stone
28mm, 1/50, f/4.5, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Nice shot. Lots of history in those rocks!

Composition

Not a fan of the blown-out sky at the top. I would crop that out (or just avoid it in camera when shooting). I like the bright light shining on the "back wall" but actually seeing the light source doesn't do anything for the shot 😊

Technical Quality

I would want to shoot this with a smaller aperture even though I like ISO-100. All that texture in the rocks would hide a little noise. It's always a delicate balance ... decisions, decisions!

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Nice colors, good light and exposure. Focus is better front to back than I would have expected at f/4.5. Good job!

Tetons at Early Morning
24.99mm, 1/100, f/8, ISO-125



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful morning at Oxbow Bend. I like that you walked down the road a bit instead of shooting from the parking area. A little something different!

Composition

I think the bushes in the foreground are taking up way too much room and getting too much attention in your shot. You could crop from the bottom and maintain your aspect ratio, BUT I would keep the full width and crop the image to 16x9. This would make Mt. Moran a lot more prominent ... and it deserves it 😊 Always nice when you get some interesting clouds ... high and low.

Technical Quality

I would have probably shot at f/10-f/14, but with your camera, f/8 looks pretty darn good. Good job!

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Everything looks good to me!

Big Thicket
100mm, 1/4000, f/4.5, ISO-51,200



Original



Illustrated Comment

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

I am guessing "Big Thicket" means **Big Thicket National Preserve**, but other than that, I am not sure what I am looking at. My best guess is that this is a reflection ... maybe?

Composition

For me at least, this needs more context. I am sure you had something specific in mind, but it eludes me. Sorry I'm not up to the task.

This would make more sense to me if it were even more abstract ... like maybe with an "oil painting" effect added to it ... so that is what I tried.

Technical Quality

I can't imagine why this needed to be shot at 1/4000 and ISO-51,200. Once again, I am at a loss.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Color, lighting, and exposure seem okay. Because I don't quite understand the subject, I am uncertain about focus.

Portugal Street at Night
18mm, 1/15, f/7.1, ISO-3200



Original

Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Intriguing. I would love to photograph locations like this. I guess I need to go to Portugal 😊

Composition

I wouldn't change anything about the framing. I would try adding a dark vignette to lead the viewer into the image (and add some more mystery). I tried using the Lightroom Auto Perspective tool to straighten thing up a little. I like it, but the difference is very slight. Very nice work!

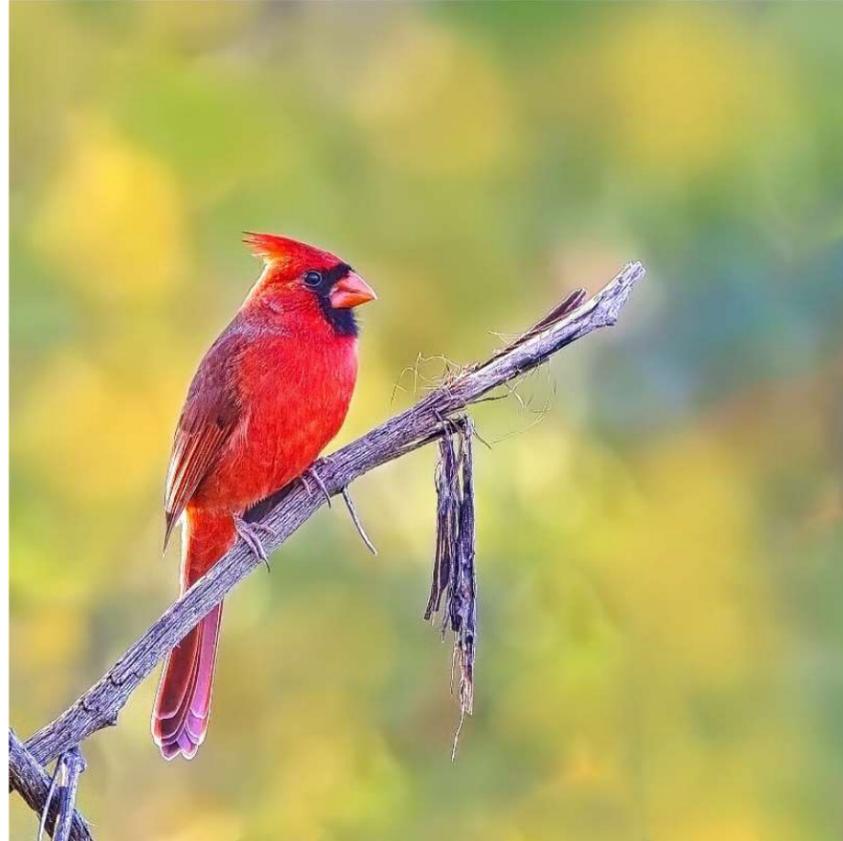
Technical Quality

Very nice results in what appear to be challenging conditions.

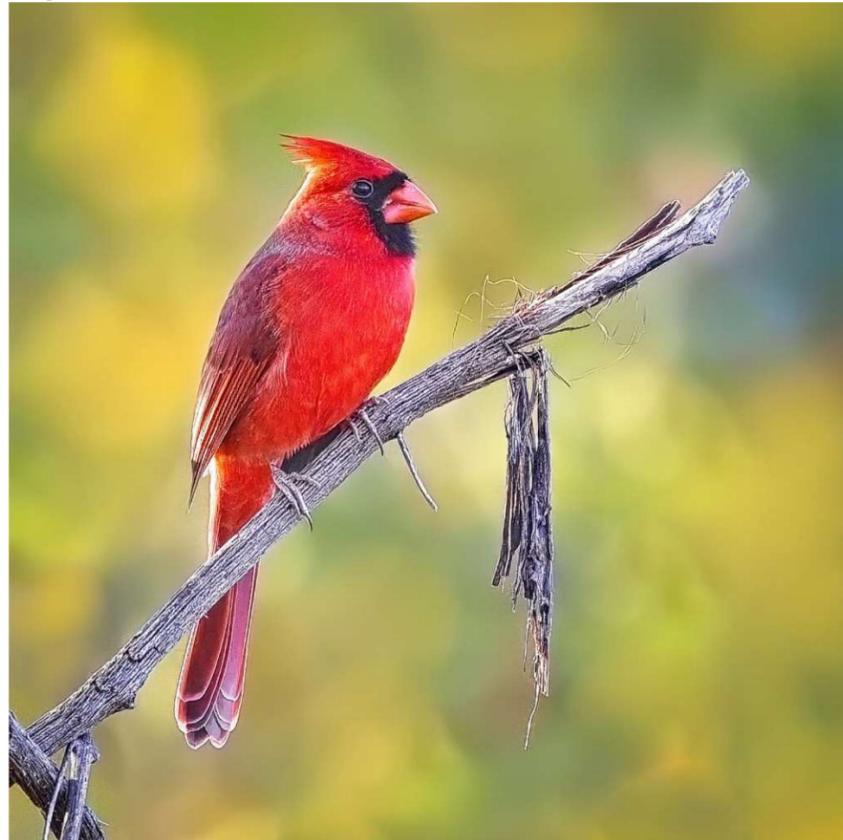
Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All very good.

Northern Cardinal in Fall Colors
No EXIF Data



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

When you see a beautiful Cardinal on a nice perch, you have to take the shot. I think it's a law 😊

Composition

Beautiful blurred background that still gives a "hint" of what is back there. I tried cropping down from the upper-right to a square aspect ratio ... thinking about the corner-to-corner diagonal of the perch/stick. Just another option, but not necessarily better.

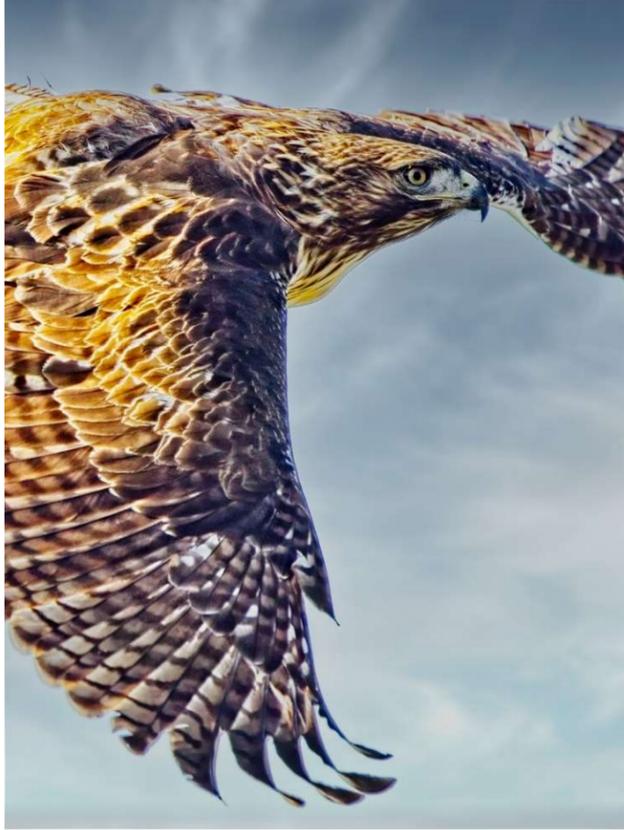
Technical Quality

Looks good to me. Good job!

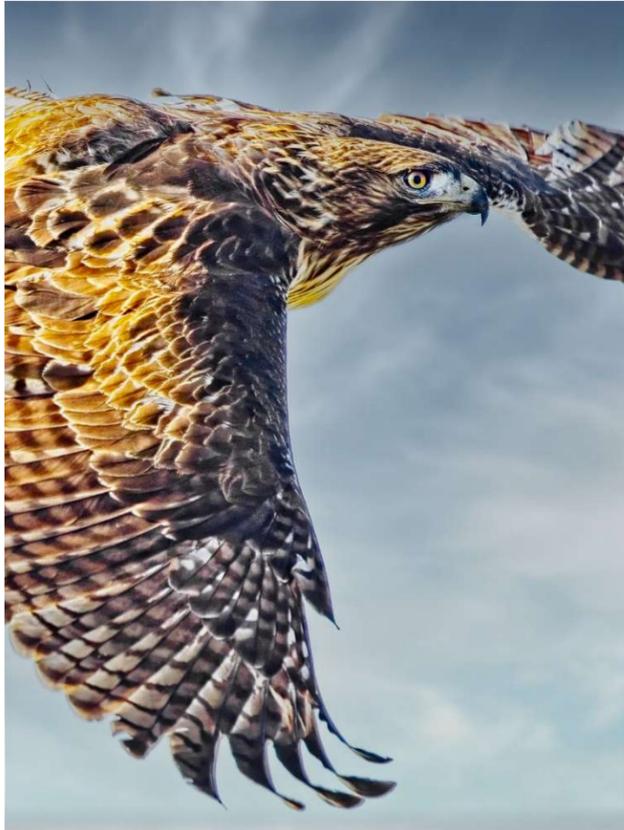
Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Lighting, exposure, focus look good. There is a slight purple "cast" on the stick. I tried taking out most of the purple in the image (in Lightroom), and I thought it looked more natural.

Wings of Fire
600mm, 1/4000, f/6.3, ISO-1600



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Always nice to get close to these beauties. Dramatic processing.

Composition

Tight crop but looks good. Curious what you had to work with in the original image.

Technical Quality

Settings are what you would expect for this shot. Nice and sharp.

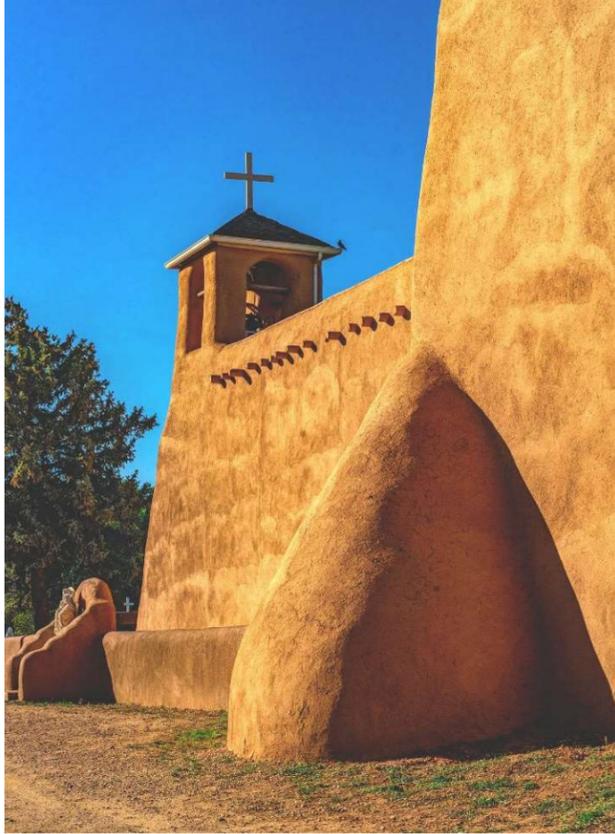
Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

The back/side lighting is sort of a challenge, but you made the most of it. I would be tempted to use a small radial gradient to brighten the eye and surrounding area just a little.

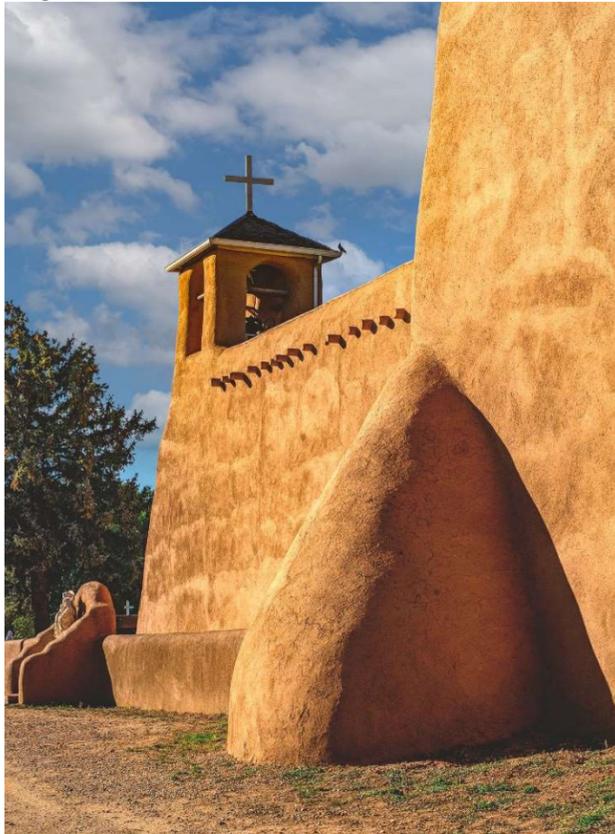
There is a slight purple cast on the leading edges of the wings (shadows). Since there is no other purple in the image, easy to fix. Also, there is some green "fringe" along the bottom edge of the far wing. Who knows where that came from (processing, masking, etc.), but I would take the time to paint/clone it out.

Good overall focus and exposure. Nice shot!

St. Francis de Asis, Taos
57mm, 1/2000, f/14, ISO-800



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful church.

Composition

Since you weren't blessed with an "interesting sky," it might have been a good idea to look for an angle/composition with less sky. Considering the angle of the light, a composition more toward the front of the church might have been nice. This is one of those locations you could shoot all day (and night) if you had the time 😊

Not sure how you feel about sky replacements (I don't use them much), but this might be a good opportunity to give it a try. Who knows?

Technical Quality

Not sure why you chose to shoot at 1/2000 for this shot. The a7RIII is pretty good at ISO-800, but you could have shot at ISO-100 and still had a manageable shutter speed. Just a thought.

The shadows seem to have just a little "haze." A slight boost in contrast would clear that right up.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

The color seems a little oversaturated to my eye ... especially the blue sky. Lighting/exposure are good, but I still would have looked for an alternate angle/composition. Focus is excellent front to back.

Foggy Morning in East Texas
32mm, 1/20, f/10, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Wonderful mood and beautiful scene. I think I've seen the place before ... from a different angle 😊

Composition

Perfect mirror image. I played around with lots of different options (crops, vignettes, etc.) but decided you had already made the best choices. Beautiful photograph!

I can't help but wonder how it would look to have people in the canoe about to push off or some people sitting/talking in the chairs on the dock. Just "thinking" out loud.

Technical Quality

Settings seem to be just right. Well shot.

If you have ND filters, this might be a great location to play around with long exposures.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All spot on!

Great work!!

Sharing the Last Blooms
400mm, 1/2000, f/4, ISO-1000



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Gorgeous shot. Serendipitous katydid 😊 Great shot!

Composition

The composition is great as is. You could certainly crop a little tighter if you wanted. I really like the way the layers of flowers/leaves melt away into the background. The vignette works for me.

Technical Quality

Super sharp and the focal plane of the flower/katydid/bird worked out just right!

I'm a "freeze the action" kind of guy, so I probably would have shot at 1/4000 and either taken the hit on the ISO or shot wide open (f/2.8) ... depth-of-field doesn't seem to be an issue. The 400/2.8 gives you lots of options. Either way is a win 😊

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Great color, great light, well exposed, and tack sharp. What more could you want.

(The A1 ROCKS!!)

Bryce Scenic #12
100mm, 2 sec, f/8, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Fascinating formations. Never been there.

Composition

Good composition and it is a great shot as is.

I've seen lots of shots of these formations, and they never quite look real to me ... maybe because I've never been there. But I wonder if shooting much tighter (200mm or even 400mm) so that you see the details of the trees and roads would provide more of a sense of scale and make them seem more real. I tried just cropping in on your image, and I kinda liked the closer look. Something to think about. Of course, you can always do both 😊

Technical Quality

I might have used a smaller aperture (maybe f/14). Since I assume you were on a tripod, you could do pretty much anything you want as far as settings.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. Just for fun, I tried pulling down the vibrance a bit (it's easy to oversaturate reds) and warmed up the white balance a little. All personal preference, but I thought it looked a little more "real."

Great work!!

Freedom This Way: Underground Railroad
35mm, 1/200, f/5.6, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Nice shot of a dramatic sculpture!

Composition

The framing seems just right. I found some other shots of this statue just to get more context, and the way you shot it makes perfect sense ... even more with the context.

Technical Quality

Nice and sharp. Settings make sense.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good! Choice of B&W works for me.

I tried a different toning ... more bronze/copper ... and I liked it. Personal taste.

The high-key exposure is a good look for this subject, and I suspect it eliminated some background distractions.

Good work!

Water-Washed Canyon
55mm, 1/160, f/8, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Interesting, but not immediately obvious to me what this is ... I know you called it Water-Washed Canyon, but the scale seems a little small to be a canyon.

In my mind, I imagined this as the head of some hog-like creature (I can see the crease of a closed eye in the shadow) with its forearm (driftwood) outstretched. It makes it more interesting for me. What do you think 😊

Composition

From what I can see, the framing is fine. But the monochrome color palette and relatively flat light made me want to “pump up” the contrast, texture, sharpness, etc. to add a little more drama. I would be interested in trying some different angles and/or different times of day.

Technical Quality

Settings are fine and no technical issues for me.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good.

Sunset Proposal
No EXIF Data



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

What a great proposal composite ... a forever memory 😊

Composition

You put together these two images perfectly ... the subject of each one fits so nicely into the open space of the other.
Great work!

Well ... almost perfectly 😊 Across the top edge of the composite there is a thin, light strip where the two images don't overlap. That should be easy for you to fix with the originals. For my purposes, I just cropped it out.

I always try a subtle, dark vignette on this type of image. Judgement call.

Technical Quality

I don't have any technical data on this entry, but the results speak for themselves.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. I like the soft, low-saturation tones and the mixture of color and B&W.

Great work!

African Sunrise
100mm, 1/50, f/18, ISO-125



Original



Illustrated Comments (Same as Original 😊)

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Gorgeous scene and photograph. I think I've seen this location before, or at least a picture of it 😊

Great work!!

Composition

Gotta love those rays! I wouldn't change anything, although I would really like to shoot each of those trees separately with that same sunrise in the background. A "target rich" environment 😊

Technical Quality

Excellent.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

You seem to have this location and sunrise well under control. Again, great work!

Watching the Fog
370mm, 1/125, f/7.1, ISO-250



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

It's all about the mood. Good job taking advantage of a great opportunity!

Composition

Good use of negative space. Nice reflection. A few minor things to consider ...

- The strip of green just above the heron's head doesn't seem to fit the mood of the image. I tried taking it out.
- I would have left a little space between the bird's reflection and the bottom edge.
- There were a few other distracting spots in the fog that would be easy to remove.
- Near the center of the top edge there is a crease/line that needs to be removed ... probably an editing artifact.

Technical Quality

Looks good.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. Nice work!!

Showin' Off and Rightly So
No EXIF Data



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

They really are show-offs. Very nice capture.

Composition

The framing is spot on. A slight, dark vignette would help focus the viewer on the subject.

Technical Quality

Plenty sharp, good depth-of-field. Whatever you did, it worked!

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good. I tried a few variations in color temp, brightness, White/Black points, etc. just to see what happened ... all personal taste. See what you think.

Good job!

A Misty South Texas Morning
229mm, 1/640, f/5.6, ISO-2500



Original



Illustrated Comments

Assignment Relevance

Open

Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful shot ... really nice processing.

Composition

Great natural framing of the deer. I tried an alternate crop with the deer's head centered horizontally. I like it ... but you decide 😊

I also added a slight, dark vignette to help draw in the viewer and to attenuate the bright area across the top of the tree.

Technical Quality

Looks good. Nice management of the relatively high ISO.

Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Exposure and focus are good. The soft colors and light are perfect for this shot.

Good job!!