

Fall Day in Iceland  
47mm, 1/200, f/11, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

### Assignment Relevance

Open

### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful scene, well shot!

### Composition

For me, the most interesting parts of the image are in the lower-left quadrant ... the buildings, the lines running through the fields, the details in the front face of the mountains. The sky, although not a bad sky, isn't that interesting and takes up almost half the image. I would try cropping in from the top-right (maintaining the same aspect ratio) to reduce the amount of sky and focus more on the most interesting parts of the image.

### Technical Quality

Your settings are just what you would want for this type of shot, and focus is good throughout the image. Good job!

### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

After looking at your photo many times, I decided to try "warming up" the colors of the entire image ... I like it. It might also be interesting to warm up just the foreground elements and leave the cooler tones on the ice/snow/sky. Always fun/interesting to experiment with post processing 😊

Colors in the Sky  
120mm, 1/500, f/11, ISO-200



Original



Illustrated Comments

### Assignment Relevance

Open

### Interest, Impact, Creativity

My first thought was “beautiful colors” immediately followed “runaway balloon” ... there doesn’t appear to be anyone in the basket. I assume there is, but ...

### Composition

I like the balloon off to one side of the frame. It would be a bonus to have more clouds/textures in the negative space of the image, but sometimes you get what you get. I would really like to see the people in the basket. It would add interest to the overall image and would provide a sense of scale for just how large these balloons are. It also looks like the image is a little crooked (the basket is not hanging directly below the balloon). Maybe it’s just my OCD, but I would rotate the image/balloon clockwise a bit to fix this 😊

### Technical Quality

Your settings are good for this type of image although I would have probably tried to get to ISO-100 and adjust shutter and aperture to achieve the same exposure. In any case, there is some noticeable noise in the blue sky. Blue sky tends to show noise even at your base ISO. If you are using a tool that allows you to select just the sky (the latest versions of Photoshop and Lightroom and many others), it’s easy to remove all the noise in the sky.

### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Beautiful colors and light as is, but since color is the primary element of the image, I would be tempted to “pump up” the brightness and saturation of the balloon colors a little. Good job!!

Miss Sadie  
No EXIF



Original



Illustrated Comments

#### Assignment Relevance

Open

#### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Looks a little like “Rembrandt Lighting” to me. Miss Sadie deserves nothing less 😊

#### Composition

I always check the edges of my composition to be sure I’m not clipping off something important (like a toe or toenail). I don’t know if Sadie’s left foot/toes got clipped in camera or in post processing, but it would be better if they didn’t. Also, since the back half of your dog is not really visible in the image, I think it would look more balanced if you crop in on that loveable face.

#### Technical Quality

The image appears to be plenty sharp and well shot. Good job!

#### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

I think the choice of B&W makes sense here as does the “moody” lighting.

Tug at Rest  
9.9mm, 1/160, f/3.1, ISO-80



Original



Illustrated Comments

#### Assignment Relevance

Open

#### Interest, Impact, Creativity

I love the misty morning and wooded hills disappearing in the background. Is this really a "tug?" The big booms on the sides and back look like they are for fishing nets. No matter, I guess 😊

#### Composition

I tried several different crops to get rid of some distractions ... the other boat at the lower-right and that round, gray thing on the roof sticking up above the treeline ... but just recropping the existing image didn't work that well. If possible, I would have liked to have moved the camera to the left to get more of a profile of the boat with fewer distractions. It would also be interesting to have the crew on the boat tending to their morning chores.

#### Technical Quality

Good job technically! I would have been tempted to shoot with a slower shutter and narrower aperture for more depth-of-field, but I'm not sure it would have made much difference for this shot.

#### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

The morning mood of this shot is the best part. Good job!

Flourescent  
55mm, 1/60, f/5.6, ISO-800



Original

Illustrated Comments

#### Assignment Relevance

Open

#### Interest, Impact, Creativity

My first reaction to this photo was that the yellow of the flower is sort of “dingy” compared to the rest of the colors in the image. I guess that could be the point, but I think it would look better if the yellow of the flower compliments/matches the intensity of the surrounding colors.

#### Composition

At first, I thought the bright colors were just abstract splashes, but the more I looked, the more it appears they form a larger version of the flower shape. Curious how you put this together ... in-camera, post processing or a combination. Interesting!!

#### Technical Quality

I assume your focus point is the center of the flower and you were using a tripod, but it is not particularly sharp. Not sure how critical that is to the overall image, but with a still-life like this it seems it could be sharper.

#### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good except as noted above. Overall interesting concept and implementation.

Waiting My Turn  
115mm, 1/13, f/5.5, ISO-3200



Original



Illustrated Comments

### Assignment Relevance

Open

### Interest, Impact, Creativity

My first reaction to this shot was “Santa Lying in a Casket” ... sorry. It just has that look/feel of some great leader “lying in state.” I am probably the only one who sees it this way 😞 Maybe I can address this in “Composition.”

### Composition

Based on the “Waiting My Turn” image title, I’m guessing this is an ornament “waiting to be hung on the tree.” Maybe if you shot this a little more upright and with a little more context ... a few sprigs of evergreen or some other ornaments in the background ... your intent would be more obvious. Also, in the upper-right corner there is a small gap in the red tissue. That would be easy to clone out.

### Technical Quality

Although the image is not particularly noisy, 3200 seems like a really high ISO for a static shot like this. Seems adding more light would have been pretty simple. Just a thought.

### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Color, quality of light, exposure, and focus all good! Good job!!

Cabin in the Woods  
28mm, 1/250, f/3.5, ISO-400



Original



Illustrated Comments

### Assignment Relevance

Open

### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful and interesting scene. Nice natural framing of the cabin between the two trees. Good job!

### Composition

I have been watching lots of Nigel Danson videos on YouTube lately. He does lots of dramatic “woodlands” photography. He is very deliberate about avoiding the sky in most of his woodlands shots as it usually distracts from the mood of the image. Anyway ... I tried cropping in from the top-right to remove the sky and to accentuate that great natural framing. I like it. See what you think 😊

### Technical Quality

Typically, for a shot like this you would want as much depth of field as possible. My first thought would be to shoot at f/10 and ISO-100 and adjust the shutter for the right exposure. Of course, this will result in a pretty slow shutter speed, but unless it's really windy (lots of movement in the trees) that shouldn't matter.

### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Generally good. I would try a warmer white balance (or just boosting the oranges and yellows a bit) and also pull up the shadows to reveal a little more detail in the darker parts of the cabin and woods.

Meter Graveyard 2  
3.9mm, 1/100, f/1.8, ISO-61



Original



Illustrated Comments

#### Assignment Relevance

Open

#### Interest, Impact, Creativity

I immediately see this as an abstract photo ... more about a collection of shapes and angles than what the objects actually are.

#### Composition

Because of the abstract nature of the image, the colors seem like a distraction to me. I think this works best as a B&W image. I tried applying a sepia toning just because I liked it, but you could experiment with other tones or maybe dual toning. I would also boost texture, sharpness, clarity and anything else I could think of to maximize the "grittiness" of this image. Finally, a fairly heavy dark vignette might help pull the viewer into the image.

#### Technical Quality

The settings don't look right, but they seem to work okay. I'm guessing this has something to do with your camera's sensor characteristics.

#### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

All good/appropriate for the image. Good job and interesting photo!

Softshell Turtle in a Galaxy Mode  
140mm, 1/250, f/5, ISO-250



Original



Illustrated Comments

### Assignment Relevance

Open

### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Interesting photo. Not sure how you put this together, but it really does look like a turtle floating in the Milky Way. With that said, the turtle's eye is the real "hero element" in the photo.

### Composition

For the same reasons as already stated, I really like this composition. Good job.

### Technical Quality

Settings are good since this image doesn't really require much depth-of-field. Sharp where it needs to be.

### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

This image really doesn't have much color in it, so I would go ahead and convert to B&W and then tone it to your tastes. I tried adding a fairly heavy dark vignette to make the "stars" pop. Just something to think about.

Monarch on Milkweed  
G140mm, 1/400, f/5.6, ISO-200



Original



Illustrated Comments

**Assignment Relevance**

Open

**Interest, Impact, Creativity**

Nice shot! Great background!!

**Composition**

The crop seems a little tight to me, but that's just my taste. As with any creature that has an eye, you want the eye to be in-focus and visible, but the backlighting makes it really hard to see the eye or "bring it out" in post processing. I tried enhancing/brightening the eye and the darker wing segments and it looked pretty good. You'll have to decide what looks best to you.

**Technical Quality**

The subject is sharp and your settings are appropriate for the content. Good job!

**Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus**

All good. Backlighting is always challenging when shooting and when processing.

Camping Sunset  
20mm, 1/250, f/5.6, ISO-200



Original



Illustrated Comments

#### Assignment Relevance

Open

#### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Interesting concept!

#### Composition

For me, the intriguing part of this image is the side-by-side view of the sunset in the sky and in the camper window's reflection. So ... I would try cropping the image to emphasize this side-by-side alignment. So ... I tried cropping in from the top-right with a 16x9 aspect ratio. Although it is not an exact mirror image, it is close and I think the image makes a little more sense.

#### Technical Quality

I would have tried to shoot this image with a narrower aperture (f/10 or so) to get the distant trees more in focus.

#### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

I tried boosting the shadows and setting White and Black points in the image. Besides revealing a little more detail in the trees, this also enhanced the colors in the clouds and sky.

Cutie  
560mm, 1/800, f/8, ISO-100



Original



Illustrated Comments

### Assignment Relevance

Open

### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Almost a silhouette, but I think I would like to see a little more detail in "Cutie's" face 😊

### Composition

The image seems to be cropped pretty tight along the bottom edge, and when I tried opening up the shadows, this was more obvious, so I would suggest proportionally adding a little more space along the bottom and right edges.

### Technical Quality

This was obviously a very "high-contrast" situation, which always makes for tough shooting. So, when I tried boosting the shadows, it revealed lots of noise in the background. I compensated for that by darkening just the background. Depending on the tools you are using, there are several ways to do this. In any case, the result would be a darker background and a subject (Cutie) that is a little less contrasty and shows a little more detail.

### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Focus seems good. The highlights along the top of the head and back are a little "blown out" (nothing but pure white with no details). This is common in high-contrast situations, and you have to decide whether you are going to expose for the highlights and underexpose the rest of the shot OR expose for the average level and accept some loss of detail in the highlights. There are pros and cons either way you go.

Iceland Fjord  
5mm, 1/400, f/7.3, ISO-125



Original



Illustrated Comments

#### Assignment Relevance

Open

#### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful, colorful scene and location! Nice shot!!

#### Composition

To my eye, the "hero element" in this photo is the diagonal line of boats pointing toward the snow-covered mountains. As is, the sky doesn't seem interesting enough to deserve almost half the image. So, I would crop the image to a wider 16x9 aspect ratio with a lot less sky and a little less of the foreground rocks. You could play around with the exact position of the crop, but I think this is a better proportion for the overall image.

#### Technical Quality

I might have used a narrower aperture and tried to get a little sharper image throughout, but that is not a big issue.

#### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

Everything looks good/natural to me. Good job!!

Water Lilly  
60mm, 1/500, f/8, ISO-200



Original



Illustrated Comments

#### Assignment Relevance

Open

#### Interest, Impact, Creativity

Beautiful blossom, well shot!

#### Composition

Maybe cropped a little tight for my tastes, but I like the negative space on the right to give the flower room to “reach toward the light.”

#### Technical Quality

You could have easily used a slower shutter speed and narrower aperture for more depth-of-field, but your settings worked okay as is.

#### Color, Lighting, Exposure, Focus

The glare and hotspots on the leaves really distract from the “hero element” of the shot ... the flower blossom. I tried removing all of those distractions and bringing down the overall brightness of the leaves to make the flower really stand out, and I thought it worked. To help avoid such distractions in the first place, you might try looking for “bright shade” or “filtered light” instead of direct sunlight when you’re searching for your composition. Of course, you won’t always find it, but it’s a good factor to keep in mind.