

CERTIFIED

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Posing –

Posing should be appropriate for age, sex, and body type of the individual(s) photographed. Posing should be designed to enhance attributes of the subject and minimize flaws.

- **Body Angle** – Shoulders should be slightly turned for a more flattering appearance. Avoid images where subject's shoulders are straight on as the shoulders are generally the widest portion of the subject.
- **Flattering Posing** - Avoid poses that place the subject in awkward or unnatural positions.
- **Eye Direction**- Eye direction should either look into the camera or follow the line of the subject's nose. If the subject is looking too far in either direction it will result in too much white exhibited in the eyes.

Lighting –

Overall ratio and direction of light should indicate skill and control and be appropriate for the image.

- **Blown Highlights** – All light areas of the image should have detail, if it is not present, this may indicate overexposure or lack of control of lighting.
- **Blocked Shadows** – All dark areas of the image should have detail, if there is none, this may indicate underexposure or lack of control of lighting.
- **Flat Lighting** – Overall undefined light ratio, equal light across subject.
- **Uncontrolled Lighting** – Exposure throughout the image is not consistent, lighting ratios may need to be refined or light modifiers/reflectors may need to be employed.
- **Catchlights** - Catchlights bring life to the subject. Subjects should have catchlights in their eyes. Avoid catchlights from multiple directions or sources, as they can be distracting.
- **Hair Light** –
 - **Too Strong** - Blown out highlights in the hair
 - **Too Weak**- No separation from the background. i.e. dark hair and dark background
 - **Angle** - Angle of hair light too low or coming from an inappropriate angle

Retouching –

Retouching for image submission is the removal of imperfections and the enhancement of preferred features. Too much retouching, especially when easily detected can detract.

Cropping –

Cropping should be appropriate to the composition of the image and the enhancement of a subject. It can change the aspect ratio of the image, or improve overall composition. A few guidelines of cropping may include:

- On portrait subjects: avoid cropping at a joint.
- 'Rule of Thirds' can aid in determining composition
- Allow the subject 'room to breath' within the frame
- 'Negative' Space must serve a compositional purpose and support 'Balance' within the frame
- Crop out unnecessary elements within the frame to aid with composition

Resolution –

- Your largest side, vertical or horizontal, should be 650 PIXELS.
- JPG images should be saved in sRGB mode at a high quality (10).
 - **Too High** – Candidate did not follow directions and image cannot be viewed properly within the platform.
 - **Too Low**- Images should not exhibit pixilation, whereby individual pixels or blocks are clearly discernible in the image.

Color Balance –

Maintain proper white balance from the color temperature of various light sources. In portraits, skin tones should be a pleasing and natural 'color' consistent with the rest of the image.

Subject Matter –

The subject matter should be appropriate to the submission purpose. Nudes are accepted if handled in a tasteful manner. Client images must be paid client work not taken on speculation. In other words, if a portrait photographer submits a landscape which is 'for sale', the landscape is not considered client work unless it is commissioned and paid for by the client.



Does not meet criteria -

An image will be marked Does not meet criteria if:

- An image does not demonstrate proper technical skill for the mandatory or elective compulsory category.
- An image has not been marked for specific elective compulsory demonstrated.

DQ: Portfolio disqualified -

A portfolio will be disqualified if the following rules were not followed on one or more images:

- The uploaded size of the file is incorrect preventing it to be properly viewed by judges.
- Subject is the same in more than one image of the body of work. (this does not apply to compulsory images)

Focus –

The *main point of interest* of any image submission while allowing for focus alterations that may be used to draw the viewer's eyes back to the *main point of interest*. For portraits, the eyes of subjects should be in sharp focus in particular the eye closest to the camera lens

Lens Choice –

Lens choice is a “personal preference” and one that is not necessarily obvious when viewing an image. However; the use of the wrong type of lens is evident by distortion of the subject or background and by the lack of, or excessive loss of depth of field.

The lens focal length should agree with the subject or overall image. Example: A portrait photographed with a wide angle lens will distort the subject and would likely be a poor lens choice.

Exposure –

The image shows the proper value of the intended subject while remaining within the limits of the useful exposure range. Highlights and Shadows should be properly exposed to show detail in each.



Camera Position –

The image shows that the camera position has emphasized the point of interest, and the direction of lighting has determined the object's personality. Should not cause distortion

Background/Foreground -

Backgrounds/Foregrounds are the area of an image not covered up by the subject(s). A few guidelines for Image Backgrounds/Foreground follow:

- Not too distracting or busy
- Should allow depth and separation between the subject and background
- Not severely overexposed or underexposed in relation to the subject or foreground
- Not too sharp, unless the portrait benefits as a result of using a sharper background/foreground.
 - Example: Portrait of a military man with a fighter jet in the background.
- Background/Foreground should have color harmony with the subject.
- Background/Foreground elements, tree branches, light poles etc., should be placed in the frame as not to appear to come out of the head or shoulders of the subject.
 - Example: Tree growing from the subject's head
- Background/Foreground should compliment the subject.

Attention to Details

- **Clothing** - Clothing should be appropriate for the scene. Clothing should appear neat and flattering to the subject. Avoid distracting patterns in clothing that will result in attention being drawn to the clothing as opposed to the subject matter.
- **Glasses**
 - **Refraction** – Avoid angles which result in distortion of the face, eyes or features as a result of the refraction of the glasses.
 - **Glare** – Avoid glare in glasses that result in color shift or specular highlights that hide eyes and/or features.
 - **Cutting Eyes** – Avoid positioning subjects that result in the rim of the glasses passing through the eyes.
 - **Crooked** – Avoid situations in which the glasses appear crooked or out of position on the face.
 - **Shadows** - Avoid unnatural shadows that can be caused by rims of glasses.

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Props

- **Subject & Prop Agreement** - Props should be relevant to the scene and subject matter. Avoid props that are out of key in the photograph resulting in attention being drawn to the props as opposed to the subject matter.
- **Awkward in Pose** – Props should enhance the subject matter. Avoid props that create situations where subjects are placed in unnatural poses.
- **Distracting to Image** - Avoid props that are too busy, too large, and detract from the subject of the image.