

January 2019



Critique or Feedback



Preparation

What was the message I intended?

- What do I see?
- What meaning do I give to the image?
- What feelings does it evoke in me?
- What do I like or dislike?
- What am I not sure about?
- What do I want to know?

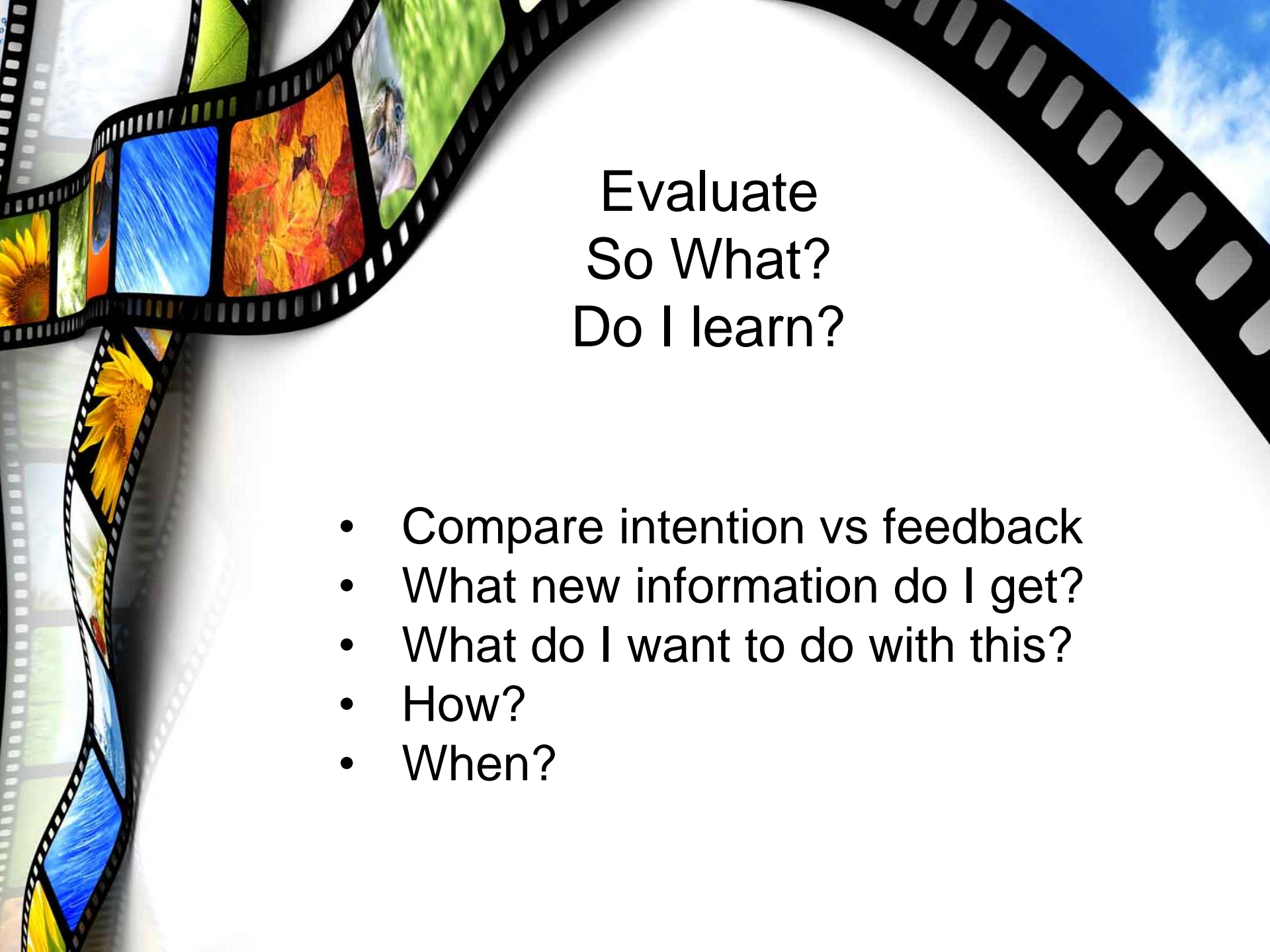
Remember it is about the image, not about you



Feedback

How is my message received ?

- What do people see?
- What meaning do they give to the image?
- What feelings does the image evoke?
- What do people like/dislike?
- What are they not sure about?
- What suggestions do they have?



Evaluate So What? Do I learn?

- Compare intention vs feedback
- What new information do I get?
- What do I want to do with this?
- How?
- When?

1) Look

First of all, take a close look at the photograph. Let your eyes scan it closely:
Make sure that you've caught every possible detail of the photo.
If something jumps out at you as being really good or really bad, note it, but don't say anything, what is it's context?

2) Interpretation (theme)

Now, talk about the photo for a little bit. This is the thing that is most frequently overlooked when doing critiques, but is actually one of the most useful things you can do to a photographer.
For the interpretation, start off by saying "When I look at this photo, I feel...".
Explain what sort of emotional response the photo raises in you.
Follow up with "I think this photo is about...".
Any symbolism you spot, tell the photographer. If you aren't sure, let them know that.

3) Technical points

The next thing to take care of, is the technical points. Is the photograph technically okay?
Did you spot dust, is the exposure okay, is there any unwanted blur (wrong focus, motion blur, zoom blur etc)? Are the colours accurately represented?
What's the contrast like? Could the photographer have used lighting differently?
Would a bigger or smaller aperture have been beneficial?

4) Artistic points

What do you think about the crop and aspect ratio? If the photo is in black and white, should it have been in colour and vice-versa?
Is there a good balance between the foreground and the background?
Would the photo have worked better with a different prop / model?

5) Good points

This is where you point out what you like about the photograph, and why.
The why bit is most important: If you can't tell why you like X, Y, or Z, there's no point in mentioning it. "I like the sky" is useless. "I like the colour of the sky" is better. "I like the deep blue colour of the sky because it contrasts nicely with the yellows and reds in the photo" is perfect. Put some thought into this.

6) Points worth improving

This point is saved for last, because you've made the photographer more confident about their photograph by now. It is still important to remember that the photo has been taken, and that this photo can't really be changed anymore.
As such, there's no point in slating people for their photographs.
Tell them one or two specific points that could be improved on this particular photo ('clean up dust', 'turn into black and white', 'different crop' are useful suggestions, as they can done in the darkroom / photoshop), and perhaps one or two points that you would have done differently, if you were the one taking the photograph

7) Overall impressions.

Given it's context, did it work as a picture?

TITLE:		DATE:
CRITIQUE		
SCORE	CATEGORY	NOTES <i>BE POSITIVE</i>
	1) LOOK	
	2) Theme INTERPRITATION	
	3) TECHNICAL points	
	4) ARTISTIC points	
	5) GOOD POINTS	
	6) POINTS WORTH IMPROVEMENT	
TOTAL Score:	7) Overall impressions	
SCORING:	1 - 10	
1 - 5	Work in progress	
5.5 - 7	Quite good	
7.5 - 8.5	Good	
9+	Very good	

Shut up and



- What route do your eyes follow?
- How about the details?
- What do you notice?
- Have you taken it all in?
- Close your eyes
- Take a second look, what happens?
- What does the image tell you?

2 interpretation



Contemplate

When I look at this picture....



I think....



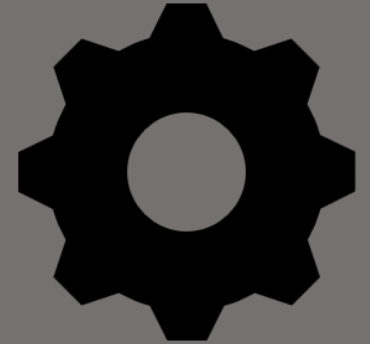
I feel.....



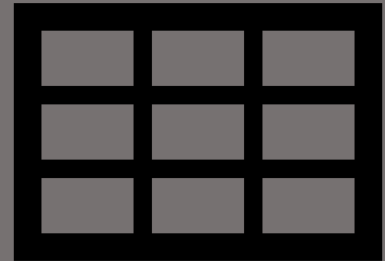
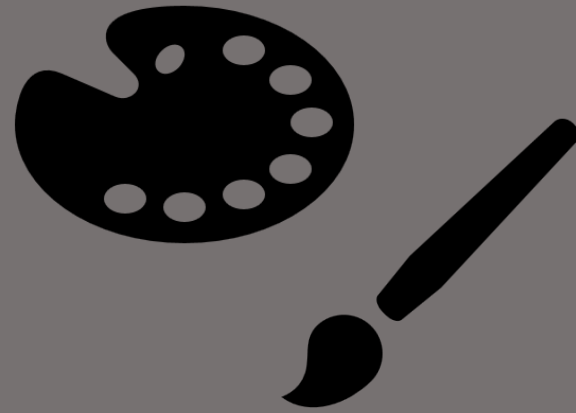
I wonder what....

3 technical detail

- Exposure
- Light
- Colour balance/tone
- Scaling from dark to light
- Sharpness
- Distortion
- Level
- Depth of field



4 Artistic points



- Composition
- Crop
- Aspect ratio
- Balance foreground background
- Balance in points of attention
- Leading lines in the picture
- Distractors
- Position of the camera

5 Good points



- What do you like?
- Why do you like it?
- Be specific



6 Points worth improving

What can be done to improve this picture

- Constructive
- Specific
- Usefull



7 Overall impression

- Given the context
- Did it work as a picture?



Example - My preparation


- Intention to communicate a feeling of freedom and depth. Does this work?

Image was dull and lacked contrast I improved contrast

- brightened the leading lines. This increases the perspective and this should give a feeling of depth. Does this work?
- in the clouds to draw attention to the weather and make the background more interesting. Did I overdo it?
- Technique: B&W + colour. Do people like this?
- Does it work? Should I include it in the series?
- What to pay attention to in next pictures?





Category	Notes (Be positive)
Interpretation	feeling of freedom - weather bland in colour - but less so from closer up.
Technical points	very crisp lot of tech. detail bluey filter
Artistic Points	✓✓ would like it to be bigger. like 16x9 format
Good points	curve - because of the way it leads clouds - feel the clouds will do something people - interest & scale.
Points for improvement	darken sky? so clouds pop out - contrast.
Overall impression	

My evaluation

Intention to communicate a feeling of freedom and depth. ✓

Contrast **Size and viewing distance**

- brightened the leading lines. This increases the perspective and this should give a feeling of depth. Does this work? ✓
- clouds to draw attention to the weather and make the background more interesting. Did I overdo it? **No, might do more**

B&W + colour. Do people like this? **I think so**

Does it work? Should I include it in the series? ✓

What to pay attention to in next pictures? **There are a lot of details in the background. This only works on big print. Fill the foreground.**



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