

WHY CAN'T I MANIPULATE MY COMPETITION ENTRIES???

The Metro Camera Club wants you to be the best photographer you can be. There are many aspects to becoming a better photographer.

COMPOSITION

You must find a good composition. Whether you set up a tabletop still life or go out on the road to shoot landscapes or nature, you must find a good composition.

LIGHT

The composition may be right, but you also have to observe the light that falls on the composition. With the tabletop, you can bring the light to it, manipulate it, and make it exactly the way you want. In nature, however, you are at the mercy of the sun and the elements. How the light falls on your subject and how you perceive it is paramount to making an average photograph into an exceptional one.

EQUIPMENT

Whether you use film or digital, the amount of money you spend on equipment is not as important as your knowledge of how to use it.

LEARN

The more you know about the effects of different kinds of lenses, camera controls, & photography in general, the better equipped you are to make photographs that have good exposures and good compositions.

PRECONCEPTION

As you learn more about composition & light, and your knowledge of camera equipment & controls like aperture, shutter speed, white balance, metering, etc. become second nature; you can turn your attention to seeing with the mind's eye. Once you begin to see a subject in terms of focus, depth of field, highlights & shadows, and all those other aspects of photography, you begin to preconceive your photograph. Before you take the photo, you ask yourself questions like:

How much depth of field do I want?

Do I want to use a polarizer?

Do I want to use other filters like graded or neutral density?

How do I blur the flow of the water in a river?

Should I use 100 ISO or 400 ISO?

The list goes on and on and on????

EXPERIENCE

The Metro Camera Club is there to inspire you to take better photographs. We offer Field Trips to get you off the couch and out shooting with like-minded people who are willing to share their experience with you. We have Programs that will impart information you can use. We sponsor Workshops to further your education. We have some fun projects like the Viewpoint competition, the Treasure Hunt, and a new web gallery called Image quest that are designed to get your creative juices flowing. Our Monthly Competition inspires us to create quality photographs. The Critique at this competition is invaluable in helping us learn to grow in our knowledge. We all learn from our experience. Get out there, make some mistakes, and learn from them.

PHOTOSHOP

As a professional, I have no hesitation doing whatever it takes in PhotoShop to create the photograph that my client wants to buy. The photograph is a product that's for sale. PhotoShop makes me a better designer, and I can turn out slicker photographs, but it does not make me a better photographer. Black & white or

color negatives need some darkroom work in order to make a good print. A digital file is going to require some adjustments as well. Learn how to use editing software to bring out and enhance the information in your digital files so you can print a better photograph. We need to learn the difference between normal adjustments, enhancements, and manipulation. It is a slippery slope when we start relying on PhotoShop to correct errors and things that we just overlooked. It is easy to become complacent and lazy.

SO, WHY CAN'T I MANIPULATE MY PHOTOS FOR COMPETITION???

Because we want you to become a better photographer who can recognize when subject & light come together at just the right moment and you bring all your photographic skills to bear to capture that moment. We want to judge that photograph by the artistic & photographic techniques you use rather than on your computer skills.