

BASICS OF PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING AND JUDGING CONTESTS



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OVERVIEW



- Introduction
- Preparation
- During Judging
- Evaluation
- Judging Contests
- Summary



JUDGING PHOTOS



- **Subjective**
- **Balance Between Technical & Creativity**
- **Pitfalls**
 - **Judging Bias (Subject Prejudice)**
 - **Lack of/Unclear Guidelines**
 - **Rushed Timeline**
 - **No identification of quality range**



PREPARATION

- **Must have guidelines. If not, make your own!**
 - General Appeal
 - Uniqueness
 - Composition
 - Human Interest



DURING JUDGING



- **Set Aside Adequate Time**
- **Avoid favoring technical proficiency over creativity**



STARTING OFF RIGHT

- Establish Quality Range – Preview all photos
- Clear Your Mind of Subject Prejudice – Evaluate the photo, not the subject!



EMOTION

- Does the image symbolize anything beyond itself?
- Does the image reflect a personal style?
- Does the image document something?
- Does the image express a feeling?



TECHNIQUE

- Lighting
- Composition
- Leading Lines
- Special Treatment
- Framing
- Movement into Space
- White Balance
- Foreground/Background Mergers



EVALUATION



- **Pluses + Minuses = Total Evaluation**
- **Comment on what photographer did RIGHT as well as wrong**
- **There are exceptions to the rules**
- **Don't sweat the small stuff.
Try to see photographer's message.**



EVALUATION

- **Be Balanced (some images produce strong negative responses)**
- **Stay with the plan. Stick to the guidelines. Be consistent.**
- **Match your evaluation to your comments.**
- **Mention both positive and negative aspects**



Preparing Your Own Judging Contest



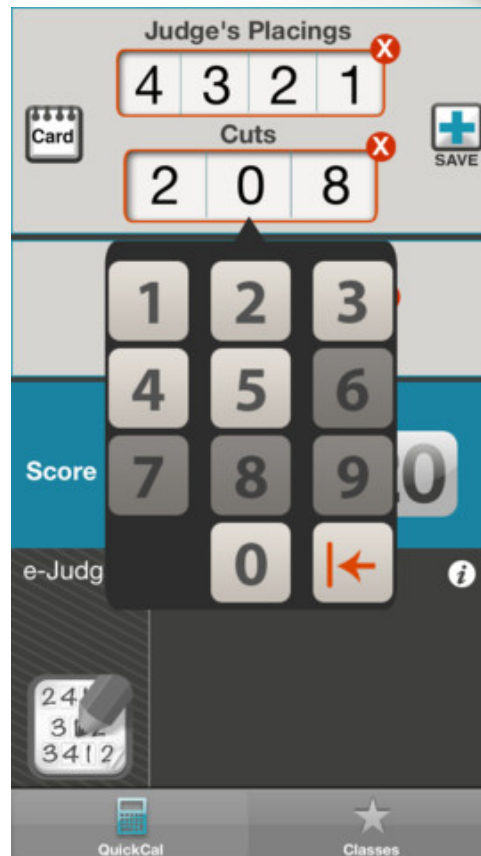
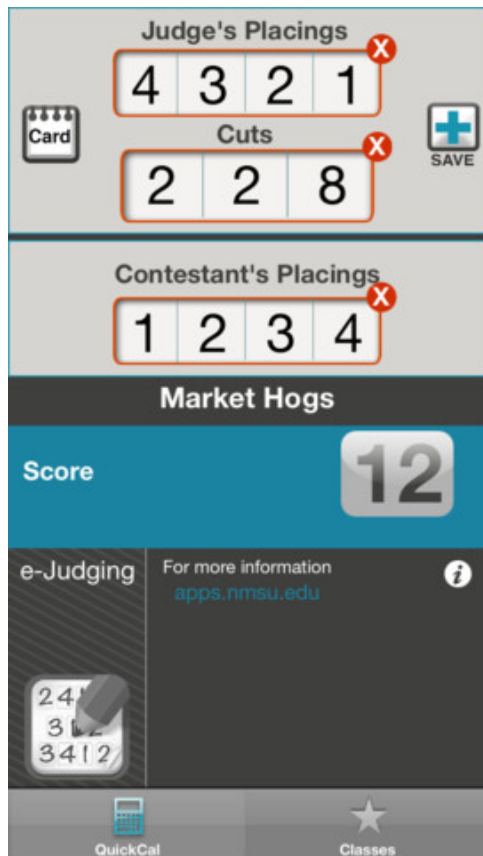
JUDGING CONTEST STEPS



- Select Photos
- Place Using Judging Criteria
- Determine Cuts
- Set Up
 - Printed photos or on computer?
 - Scantron or judging sheets?
 - Reasons?
- Evaluate Answers (E-Judging App)
- Review Answers to Maximize Learning

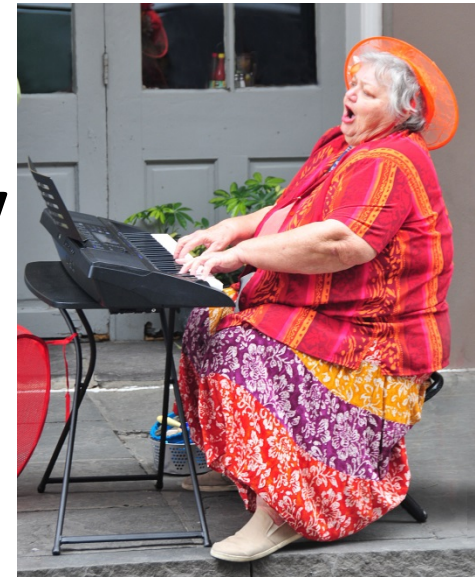


JUDGING APP: E-Judging



SUMMARY

- Have a set of guidelines
- Be aware of the range of quality
- Leave your prejudice at the door
- Spend time with each photo
- Balance technical skill and creativity
- Pluses + Minuses = Final Evaluation
- Judging contests are a great way of improving skills



CONTEST RESOURCES

Resources available on-line at:

texas4-h.tamu.edu/photographyjudging

Site contains resources on:

- Organizing a local photography judging contest.
- Understanding judging contest “cuts”
- 34 classes of practice photos
- 6 classes of practice problems

