

County Fair Photo Judging Criteria/Standards Rubric

	Minimal	Basic	Satisfactory	Proficient	Advanced
Photo Composition (35%)	No rules of composition applied; needs improvement in all areas.	One rule of composition applied well; others are missing or need improvement.	Two rules of composition applied well; others are lacking or need improvement.	Three or more rules of composition applied well; no mergers.	Basic rules of composition applied well; composition quality is significant; any experiments with composition are successful.
Storytelling Ability (35%)	Lacks central idea; subject unclear; subject is not doing anything.	Lacks central idea; subject is not doing much.	Central idea is clear; subject is doing something.	Central idea is clear; viewpoint is new or unusual; subject is doing something interesting and looks natural.	Central idea is clear; viewpoint is new or unusual; exhibit generates discussion and reaction; photo grabs viewer's attention.
Technical Quality (20%)	Three or more areas need improvement: exposure, focus, details, and separation of tones.	Two areas need improvement: exposure, focus, details, and separation of tones.	One area needs improvement: exposure, focus, details, and separation of tones.	Proper exposure; lots of detail; sharp focus; clear separation of tones between subject and background.	Proper exposure; significant detail; sharp focus; clear separation of tones between subject and background; risks taken; any experiments with technique are successful.
Mounting Technique (10%)	Mounting detracts significantly from exhibit, enough to lower even quality photos one placing.	Mounting definitely detracts from exhibit quality; too busy with "extras."	Mounting detracts from exhibit in a minor way.	Balanced layout; photos mounted parallel to sides; meaningful title; informative captions; attractive lettering.	Top-quality mounting contributes significantly to exhibit; extra care taken to make exhibit outstanding.
Fair Entry Guidelines	Some guidelines followed, but significant errors or omissions are evident.	Most guidelines followed, but some errors or omissions are evident.	All major guidelines followed; but some minor errors or omissions made.	All entry guidelines followed; exhibit blue-ribbon quality.	All fair entry guidelines followed; exhibit best-of-class quality.
Placing	4th Place – PINK	3rd Place – WHITE	2nd Place – RED	1st Place – BLUE	MERIT AWARD

Created by David Keech, 4-H Photo Project Volunteer. Adapted by Wayne Brabender, Wisconsin 4-H Photo Specialist.