Rubric: 10 Questions to Ask Before Taking A Photo

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| Question # | Exemplary | Proficient | Below standard | Total points |
| What story am I telling? | Written description includes several sentences detailing the story the photographer is trying to tell. It also provides background information on the photo assignment. | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing the story the photographer is trying to tell. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| What is the visual focus? | Written description includes several sentences detailing the main focal point of the image. It also includes the reasoning behind why this subject was chosen. | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing the visual focus of the image. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| Competing focal points | Written description includes several sentences detailing any competing main focal points in the image and how the photographer has dealt with them. | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing any competing focal points in the image. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| Background/  foreground | Written description includes several sentences detailing the foreground and background which may compete for the viewer’s attention or may enhance the image. An exemplary description includes ways the photographer added foreground for framing purposes, eliminated background distractions and/or purposely chose a foreground or background that helps place the subject in a specific context. | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing any foreground and background which may compete for the viewer’s attention or may enhance the image. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description of the foreground or background of the image. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| Am I close enough? | Written description includes a narrative detailing the choices the photographer made to get close for impact. The description also includes justification for why this was “close enough.” | Written description includes a complete sentence describing why the photographer chose the subject-to-photographer distance from where the photo was taken. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description of how close the photographer was. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| Main source of light | Written description includes what light sources were used in the photograph. An exemplary description includes descriptions of where the light is in relation to the photographer and any adjustments made to available light. | Written description includes a full sentence describing what kind of light was used in the photo. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description of what kind of light was used. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| Framing straight | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing whether a perfectly horizontal horizon was used. An exemplary description may describe the thought process used to skew the horizon. | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing whether a straight horizon was used. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| Other perspectives | Written description includes a complete narrative describing possible places the photo could have been taken from and justification for where the final location was selected. | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing possible other places from which this photograph could be taken. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| Vertical or horizontal | Written description includes a description of why the photographer chose a vertical or horizontal orientation. An exemplary description includes the details about where the photograph will be published and the needs of the publication. | Written description includes a complete sentence detailing why the photograph was shot in vertical or horizontal orientation. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description. | \_\_\_/ 5 |
| How does the eye travel through the image? | Written description includes a narrative describing the full path a viewer’s eye will travel when viewing the photograph. | Written description includes a complete sentence describing a few points in the photograph where your eye may be drawn. | Written description includes a one- or two-word description. | \_\_\_/ 5 |