

## TCC 2019-2020 Competition Themes

I am pleased to share with you the themes the TCC Advisory Committee (AC) has identified for the 2019-2020 TCC Competitions. And this year there is a theme for the themes - intentionally applying a photographic technique or concept to create an impactful image.

According to the TCC Bylaws, we are providing you with the themes now so you can start shooting now. You will see that we have described each theme as an "assignment." We are encouraging everyone to go out and photograph for the competitions "in real time."

In support of that, the AC has tightened the time limit for submissions to one year. Unless stated otherwise, you may submit an image captured after January 1, 2018, for any competition. One purpose of TCC is to be a forum for its members to develop their photographic skills. So, even if you choose to dip into your archives for an image, maybe you'll apply some of your newly learned post-processing techniques.

Lastly, over the summer, we will be assigning deadlines for each of the competition themes, and we will let you know in September. We will also be identifying workshops, discussions and outings to support you as you shoot for the assignments. If you have ideas for these, or would like to lead one, please let me know.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Release your shutters!

- ***Creating High Relief*** – This assignment is to produce an image using photographic techniques, especially hard shadows and contrast, where the subject has a high degree of dimension. In the world of sculpture, sculptural relief is when the modeled forms project from the background by at least half their depth. Photography being a two-dimensional medium has to use light and shadow to define detail and edges to make the illusion of three dimensions. A successful image will have a subject which has its detail presented through highlight and shadow. For example,
  - Google Image Search - Creating High Relief Photography  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=creating+high+relief+photography&client=safari&rls=en&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwja8eju0LviAhVQaq0KHYeEAEQQ\\_AUIDigB&biw=1276&bih=680#imgrc=](https://www.google.com/search?q=creating+high+relief+photography&client=safari&rls=en&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwja8eju0LviAhVQaq0KHYeEAEQQ_AUIDigB&biw=1276&bih=680#imgrc=)
- ***Capture the Perfect Moment*** – This assignment is to present a photograph that tells a story. Each genre of photography has different meaning to what a "Perfect Moment" means – it can be 'the decisive moment' when some action takes place, someone walks into frame, or it can be that instant of connection between the subject and the camera, or the drop of water lets go. The Perfect Moment can also be waiting for the clouds to open and let the sun peek through to illuminate that farm house on the hill, or golden hour light bathes your scene in beauty; or the bear grabs that fish out of the water. Go out and shoot what you love to shoot, and enter something special that shows the viewer what you love about photography. A successful image will connect with the viewer without distracting elements that take away from the moment.

- How to Capture the Moment - Nat Geo Traveler Magazine <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/intelligent-travel/2013/07/12/how-to-capture-the-moment/>
  - How to Capture the Moment in Photojournalism <https://www.understandphotography.com/how-to-capture-the-moment-in-photojournalism/>
  - 7 Tips for Capturing the Decisive Moment in Street Photography <https://digital-photography-school.com/7-tips-capturing-decisive-moment-street-photography/>
  - How to Capture a Moment <https://williambeem.com/how-to-capture-a-moment/>
- **Contrasting Colors** — This assignment is to create an image using contrasting colors to deliver impact and create a mood or tell a story. Think of that row of old, bold cars in Cuba, or fall foliage softened in fog, or some colorful market scene. A successful image will clearly use color or colors to impact the viewer but must be more than just showing color in the photo.

Using a Color Wheel and basic knowledge of the wheel's complimentary and contrasting colors. For some ideas about how colors complement and contrast with each other, about dominant and subordinate colors; about strong, bold vs soft, pastel colors -

- The Ultimate Color Combinations Cheat Sheet <https://brightside.me/article/the-ultimate-color-combinations-cheat-sheet-92405>
  - How Using Color Relationships Can Impact Your Photography <https://www.lightstalking.com/how-using-color-relationships-can-impact-your-photography/>
  - Color in Photography for Emotional Impact <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/dominant-color-in-photography-for-emotional-impact/>
  - 8 Great Tips for Using Color in Photography <https://expertphotography.com/color-in-photography/>
  - 7 Ways to Create Powerful Photos with Colour <https://photography.tutsplus.com/articles/7-ways-to-create-powerful-photos-with-colour--photo-1090>
- **Triangles** – This assignment is to *see* and photograph the triangle shape. The shape can be literal in that the subject of the image is a triangular shape or the triangle can be a shape clearly visible in the composition of the image, where three elements are arranged to produce a triangular shape. A successful image will be impactful to the viewer as well as contain the required shape within the frame. Some ideas -
    - 5 ways to use triangles in photography composition <https://thelenslounge.com/triangles-in-photography-composition/>
    - How to use Triangles to Improve Your Composition <https://expertphotography.com/triangles-improve-your-composition/>

- ***Patterns created by light passing through an object*** - This assignment is to concentrate on the light pattern including only as much of the environment as needed for composition or context. The main object (light source and the object producing the pattern cannot be the subject) and the resulting pattern or parts of the pattern must be the subject seen in the frame. Ideas include the pattern on a wall, table or floor of light shining through colored glass, like a vase or a stained glass window; the pattern on the ground or a wall of sun light passing / shining through the leaves of a tree; light through stained glass windows. A pattern like refraction or diffraction is in theme as long as the object producing the pattern (e.g., a prism, a drop of water) is present in a very limited way (e.g., the edge of the prism, a macro of the "content" not the edges of the drop of water). In all cases, the subject should be the resultant pattern created and not the object itself.
- ***Shadow is the Subject*** – This assignment is to produce an image where shadow, or shadows, is the main subject. The object that creates the shadow can appear in the frame but must be minimized in the construction of the composition. Some ideas -
  - 5 Tips for Using Shadows to Create Dramatic Images <https://www.digitalphotomentor.com/5-tips-for-using-shadows-to-create-dramatic-images/>
  - Photographing The Perfect Shadow <https://www.digital-photo-secrets.com/tip/4698/photographing-perfect-shadow/>