

Themes for Digital Competitions 2010-2011

Round 1: Simplicity

Simplicity is the key to most good pictures. The simpler and more direct a picture is, the clearer and stronger is the resulting statement. There are several things to be considered when we discuss simplicity. First, select a subject that lends itself to a simple arrangement; for example, instead of photographing an entire area that would confuse the viewer, frame in on some important element within the area. Second, select different viewpoints or camera angles. Move around the scene or object being photographed. View the scene through the camera viewfinder. Look at the foreground and background. Try high and low angles as well as normal eye-level viewpoints. Evaluate each view and angle. Only after considering all possibilities should you take the picture. See beyond and in front of your subject. Be sure there is nothing in the background to distract the viewer's attention from the main point of the picture. Likewise, check to see there is nothing objectionable in the foreground to block the entrance of the human eye into the picture.

A last point of simplicity - ***tell only one story***. Ensure there is only enough subject material in the picture to convey one single idea. Although each picture is composed of numerous small parts and contributing elements, none should attract more of the viewer's attention than the primary object of the picture. The primary object is the reason the picture is being made in the first place; therefore, all other elements should merely support and emphasize the main object. Do not allow the scene to be cluttered with confusing elements and lines that detract from the primary point of the picture. Select a viewpoint that eliminates distractions so the principal subject is readily recognized. When numerous lines or shapes are competing for interest with the subject, it is difficult to recognize the primary object or determine why the picture was made.

links for reference and exploration

wikipedia

[photographic examples](#)

Round 2: Earth, Water, Air or Fire

Long believed to be the fundamental and basic building blocks of life, the four elements have been used as a photographic and artistic themes for centuries. Each one gives us a beautiful starting point. Just about any landscape will have one or more elements represented, but our goal with this theme is to try and represent only one of the elements within your photograph. Choose your favorite of the four and show us how it speaks to you.

Earth = dry, fertile, stable, nurturing, solid, firm, endurance, strength, both green and brown.

Water = fluidity, flowing, clarity, sparkling, essence of life, purity, fertility, blue and teal.

Air = clouds, sky, soul, breath, life, communication, wisdom, blowing, floating, yellow and white.

Fire = heat, purifying, energy, strong, creation, destruction, healing, harmful, red and orange.

links for reference and exploration

[wikipedia](#)

[biblical references](#)

Round 3: Country Road

The photographic possibilities are wide open with this theme, venture outside and find scenes from out in the country, rural, and wilderness area. The main criteria is, your photograph should have a path or road in it, the rest is up to you.

links for reference and exploration

[photographic examples](#)