

# PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Travel Photography by Bob Krist—National Geographic

## Lesson 3: Three Keys: Light, Composition, Moment

Good photographers have a strong sense of three qualities. In this lesson these qualities are referred to as rubrics: good light, strong composition and a sense of moment. The rubrics are discussed and represented (or not) by 6 photo examples.

### Photo Examples

- Pilot: The photo of Freddy Cabanas flying a biplane in close formation with another biplane provides strong composition. Light is provided by perfect weather and beautiful sea and sky. Close formation defines the moment.
- Runners: The place is a marathon finish line on a hot and humid day in Atlanta. Perfectly framed composition is provided by 3 runners in focus and other runners in a foggy background as all are doused with water spray provided by the fire department. Light is moody and misty, and the moment shows great physical relief if not gratitude.
- Flag Truck: This photograph shows a patriotically painted truck on the roadside. It is shot at a low angle to hide junk in the background. The photo has good composition and lighting has no moment. Nonetheless it is a good photograph.
- Fire Breather: As with this photo, firebreathers at night always provide a sense of awe and excitement. Timing the peak flame captures the moment. But in this photo, there is no sense of place. The photo is taken in Morocco, but the viewer would not know it from the photo. The author (Bob Krist) describes the action as happening in a compositional void.
- Temple: It's a rainy day at the Borobudur temple in Java. The umbrellas are colorful but the composition is poor and there is no sense of moment.
- Rainbow: Rainbows define the essence of a fleeting moment. The lighting providing the rainbow can be dramatic. All you have to worry about is the composition. In this case the horizon is low to provide a good view of the arc. The vineyard fence in the foreground anchors the composition.

### Exercises

1. Look at some of your favorite photos and judge them for light, composition, and moment. Do the photos have all, some or none of these qualities?
2. Practice looking for moments in everyday life. Do they give you enough time to photograph them? Can you anticipate situations that might give you a chance to prepare for a photo (a sports venue for example)?