Giving feedback on photos

1. **Take It In:** Examine the photo as a whole. Take in the details of the photograph. If something stands out (either good or bad) take note of it, but don't say anything at this point.
2. **Interpret:** This is your first 'broad brush' opportunity to respond to the picture. It's a chance to talk in general terms about what the photograph makes you feel, what it says to you, what the photo is about (in your opinion), themes, symbolism, etc. Remember, it's art, not something with a 'right or wrong' answer, so even if you see things that the artist didn't intend, or feel things about the work that are unexpected (to the artist) that's OK! (and can be extremely helpful for the artist to hear as well)
3. **Technical:** Here you'll want to address the technical side of the photograph. Is it in focus? Do you see dust spots (more relevant to film)? How's the contrast? Would the picture worked better with a smaller or larger aperture? Etc. Essentially if it has to do with the technical side of the photograph, this is the place to address it.
4. **Artistic:** And the other side to the 'technical' coin is to address the artistic. How's the crop? Is the picture composed well? If it is in colour would it have worked better as a B&W (or vice-versa)? Etc.
5. **Good Points:** It's important to find some good in the photograph… This is easy when you like it, and harder when you don't. The truth is that no photograph is irredeemable, and even if it's a challenge to see it, there is good in there and you need to find it! The more specific the better. "I like the clouds" isn't helpful. "I like the way the clouds draw the eye across the frame diagonally and pull me more into the frame" is much better. Put some thought into this section, but *especially* put some thought into this section if you have a lot of things you want to say in the next section…
6. **Areas for Improvement:** It's important to remember that for the most part it's difficult or impossible to 'go back and do it again' when it comes to photography. This means that it often isn't very helpful (and can be quite frustrating) to provide criticism that can't be acted upon ("I sure wish the tree was on the right side of the frame instead of the left") I generally try to provide a couple of things that the photographer can act upon (crop the frame differently, and B&W would be better than colour) and try to couch things that can't actually be implemented as 'things you may want to take into consideration for other pictures in the future.'