



Scoring Guide for Photojournalism Competition Juries

Review the Illustrated PJ Guide to the definition, and direct any inquiries to the PJD Exhibitions Standards Director pjd-esd@psa-photo.org, or to the PJD Image Evaluator, evaluator-photojournalism@psa-photo.org

Keep in mind that a photojournalism image is intended to be a true record of the scene without interference by the photographer or anyone on his behalf, and without any manipulation that changes anything existing there at the time the image was captured. It must be either full color or full monochrome, and it may not include a title or the name of the photographer on the image.

Score 1: If the image, in your opinion, does not provide any interesting information or cause an emotional reaction to the situation, and does not show any human influence, it is not appropriate for the PJ category. Any attempt to deceive the viewer that it depicts reality, such as a known set-up or obvious manipulation, is not eligible in PJ and should be scored 1.

In the Human Interest section, sports action is excluded, and should be scored 1 **in that section**. If no people are included, the image should also be scored 1 **in that section**.

Score 2: The image, in your opinion, provides weak or confusing information. Irrelevant details could compete for dominance and obscure the story. The situation could appear to have been set up, due to the subjects acting in unison or dressed inappropriately for that activity, or various other reasons for such suspicion. Technical flaws, such as poor focus, over-saturation or extreme sharpening, are distracting and interfere with the message.

Score 3: Image complies with the Photojournalism definition. Although it is not exceptional, it tells a story without significant flaws, and it appears to have occurred spontaneously. Importance of the subject matter can compensate for compositional or technical inadequacy.

Score 4: Image complies with the definition and has immediate impact. The story is strong and the technical aspects are good. It is a solid image where the elements work well together, and could be considered for an award.

Score 5: Image is among the best in the competition in your opinion, and definitely deserves an award. It shows an unusual aspect of a situation, perhaps a telling facial expression, an unexpected moment or a unique viewpoint, thus producing an image that differs from those that are seen repeatedly. An outstanding story-telling image.

***Notes to judges:** Use **all five** of the available scores to rate the images within a group; do not assign just two or three of those numbers to everything. When using a different scoring system, such as 3-to-9, adjust the scores accordingly to use the entire range.*

DQ is reserved for serious and provable violations, and needs to be explained to that entrant. A weak image, questionable editing or suspected non-compliance regarding arrangement of the content by the maker or anyone on his behalf should be given a low score, not a DQ, unless proven.