

**Snowy 6.5**

Great subject for a black & white contest. Nice capture of the owl looking right into the camera with a catchlight in the left eye. Even though there is shadow, the exposure of the owl's right side is very good.

I would crop the image to see if the power(?) line run can run from lower left to upper right. This would also shift the owl into a better location for "rule of thirds" positioning. It might be interesting to experiment with a 1:1 ratio to see if that helps or perhaps a portrait orientation.

**Tembo 7.0**

I like the capture of the elephant eating! The angle you shot the image from does a nice job of showing the size of the animal. Good depth of field with elephant in sharp focus from trunk to hind quarter with trees in background nicely blurred. The focus also captured the texture of the elephant's hide very well. The display of the ears helps frame the head.

It might help to crop so the elephant is more to the right side of the image rather than centered. This would leave more space for the animal to be moving into the image. I would also suggest editing out the distracting dark item in the on the upper left of the image.

**Out West 8.0 (Third Place)**

Good placement of the wagon in the lower right with lots of space in front of it. My eye circulates nicely from the wagon to the butte and back. The angle showing the rear opening of the covered wagon makes me want to peek inside. The light color of the wagon's cover helps bring my eye back there as it explores the rest of the image.

I wonder if adding more foreground would help with the scale of the vastness of "Out West". I also recommend cropping so the entire wheel of the covered wagon is visible. The lens or the sensor may need cleaning.

**Organized Chaos 8.5 (First Place)**

Great title of a very busy image helps tell the story. I like the layering of #14 car in foreground, the jumble of pit crew along the barrier in the middle and then activity around #8 car in the background. Blurred motion of some pit crew helps convey the sense of frenzied activity. The curved white painted line on the track helps guide my eye through a very busy image.

I would crop this bit differently to reduce the amount of the pit crew on the right side and capture all the crew member in the upper left. A slightly lower angle might help move the poles with the sign boards further up in the image, but I recognize that may not have been an option at the track.

**Violet Defense 7.5**

Wonderful panning image freezing the Violet Defense while showing motion through the blurring of the pit crew in the background. Good positioning of the car in the left side of the image moving to the right.

I think the image might be enhanced by cropping a bit more off the left side and giving the Violet Defense more room to move into the right side. That might also pick up the other car more as well.

**Nascar Axalta 8.25 (Second Place)**

I love the simplicity of this image. The car is very crisp and there are no distractions and the tires convey that the car is in motion. I am not sure whether this is a panning shot but the lines on the track add to the sense of motion. The contrast between the sharpness of the car and the blurred track adds to this image and gives it an impressionistic style.

Perhaps backing off a bit to create more space around the car would add to the sense of speed that I feel is being presented. Consider adding more space in front of the car so it has more room to move into the frame.