

# Teaching Students to Embrace the “F” Word

Open critiques are held often in my classroom. Students are encouraged to give one another constructive criticism about their photographic images. Growth happens by learning from our mistakes. We can help students embrace the “F” word (fail) and grow by allowing them to try without penalty, and giving them permission to go back and re-evaluate, re-shoot and re-edit their images after critique. A student once said, “Teachers should make sure that their students are comfortable making mistakes under their instruction. Otherwise students get so caught up in the fact that their grade may be compromised, they prevent themselves from growing. Great teachers foster growth. They make students feel comfortable enough to mess up while, simultaneously, balancing a standard of excellence by which they want everyone to strive toward.”

## Constructive Criticism

Kayla was given the following feedback on the left-hand image below.

- Use a seamless backdrop so you do not see the edge where the wall meets the floor cloth
- The idea of the lights on the hoola hoop is great, but maybe have someone assist you and move the hoola hoop during the exposure instead of simply dropping it straight down
- Adjust the stance of the subject, she looks stiff and uncomfortable
- Think about the subjects dress and the fluidity of it (or lack of) in comparison to the movement of the lights. How can they work together?
- Adjust the lights to give you more contrast

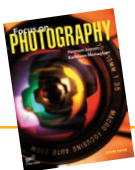
## FIRST PHOTO SHOOT



## SECOND PHOTO SHOOT



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