

# Judging Critique Explained

## 1. Show Readiness

Quilt should be clean  
Should be free of animal hairs  
All threads should be neatly trimmed  
Markings should be removed

## 2. Visual Impact

Design balance  
Use of color/value  
Overall appeal

## 3. Execution of Chosen Construction Technique

Piecing:

Seams and intersections should meet accurately  
Points should be sharp  
Curves & Circles smooth & round  
Seam lines should be straight  
Piecing thread should be an appropriate color  
Dark fabrics should not shadow through lighter fabrics at seams.

Applique:

Edges of applique motifs should be well-secured  
Decorative stitches should be consistently applied  
Curves should be smooth, circles should be uniformly circular  
Shadowing should be avoided

## 4. Execution of Quilting Technique

Machine:

Thread tension should be consistent on both front and back  
Starts and stops should be well-handled and secure  
Stitch length should be even  
Back tracking should be accurate  
Ditch quilting should remain in the ditch

Hand:

Stitches should be even and straight  
Knots should be buried  
Traveling stitches should not be visible

**Outline quilting should stay off of applique pieces**

### **5. Appropriateness of Quilting**

**Quilting design should complement quilt top**  
**Spaces should be filled with a consistent density of quilting**  
**Parallel lines and grids should run true**  
**Curves and circular designs should be fluid and true**

### **6. Borders and Sashings**

**Straight lines should be straight**  
**Borders and sashings should be properly proportioned to blocks**  
**Sashing should accurately line up both vertically and horizontally**  
**Borders should fit properly without waving or rippling**

### **7. Edge Treatment**

**Binding should be filled to the edge with batting**  
**Avoid rippling in binding application**  
**Binding should be consistent width**  
**Visible machine stitches should be straight & evenly applied from all edges**  
**Hand stitching should form a true 90-degree angle**  
**Corners should be consistently**

### **8. Back of Quilt**

**Backing should be free of distortion or tucks**  
**Seaming should be symmetrical and straight**