

# Negative Collage

## Photography 1



Collage is the gathering and assembling of images and text from found sources to create your own work of art. In this project you will create a collage with images and /or text from magazines and/or newspapers. Then a transparency will be made of your collage. You will use the transparency to make a negative print in the darkroom. (The print will come out negative, or reversed from your original). Your collage should communicate some sort of message about society or the life of a high school student.

### Step 1: Getting Started

Gather your ideas, review the suggested lists of Social Issues provided in class, and the class discussion on "Social Commentary"

- **Brainstorm:** Make a list of social issues, proverbs, values or attributes that you think are important. Choose one. Then begin searching for images and/or words that might communicate what you are trying to say.
- **Picturestorm:** Start looking through the magazines and newspapers. Look for photographs that are startling, amusing, or evoke your interest in some way. Ask yourself why you are attracted to that image. What associations do people have with that particular image? What might you be able to communicate with the image?
- Look at artists like Barbara Kruger, Raphael Vicenzi



### Step 2: Composing your Collage

Once you have your ideas churning and some of your images and words selected, begin to think about how you will arrange them on paper to communicate your message as strongly and clearly as possible.

Get yourself a precut piece of 8x10" sheet of drawing paper. Move your images and words around on the page to experiment with placement. **DO NOT GLUE THEM DOWN YET!** Think very carefully about the composition and these design principles:

- **Emphasis:** Is there some visual point of emphasis where the viewer's eye immediately goes? Does your point of emphasis stand out from the rest of the image? Does your point of emphasis fit the message you wish to communicate?
- **Contrast and Variety:** Have you included light areas, dark areas, large images, and small images? Make sure your collage doesn't get too cluttered with images of similar shape, size and value. Allow some areas to be solid black, White, pattern, or texture. (Leave them white or fill them in with ink line patterns, columns of newspaper type, black paper, or anything else you can think of?)



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- **Unity:** is there a common images, shape, pattern, or color (value) that appears throughout the collage to make it feel unified?

### Step 3: Putting it all together

Now that you have CAREFULLY considered the composition questions above, you may begin to glue the pieces into place. Everything about your collages should be intentional and should help communicate your message. Remove any parts of the text or images you don't want.

### Step 4: Have a transparency made

When you have completed your collage, hand it in to the teacher to have a transparency made.

### Step 5: Printing you Negative Collage:

When you have received your transparency, you are ready to make a print in the darkroom

- put a # 4 Filter into the enlarger, and make a test strip, laying the test strip underneath the transparency
- Determine what exposure will give you solid blacks and clear, white highlights
- Make a print at that exposure.

