

# Making a Negative Photo with the Invert Adjustment Layer Photoshop Tutorial

## Examples

Here are examples of what your photos could possibly look like.



Nature on a White Sheet of Paper



Final Result: Negative Photo

## File Management

Having your photos in proper folders will make it easier to find your images, both when opening them up in Photoshop and when you upload them to Google Classroom.

1. On the desktop, make your project/photoshoot folder (For the first Photoshoot, use **240816 First Photoshoot**)
2. In this folder, make three folders in it named **RAW**, **Edits**, and **JPEG**.
  - a. In the **RAW** folder, put your photos from your phone in here.

## Step 1: Open Photoshop

Use Spotlight Search by clicking the  icon on the top right of your screen on the menu bar. Type in Photoshop and click on the program to open it.

*Helpful Tip: Right click on the Photoshop logo on the dock and click on **Keep in Dock** to keep it in the Dock to have it easier to open in the future.*



## Step 2: Opening Your Photo in Photoshop

You can open images a few different ways in Photoshop.

- With the **Finder** folder, you can **right click** on the image file and then **Open With** and then **Adobe Photoshop 2024**.
- With the **Finder** folder, you can click and drag the image file and then drag the Photo to the Photoshop icon on the **Dock**.
- With the **Finder** folder, you can click and drag the image file and then drag the Photo to the Photoshop window.
  - *Be careful when you do this, because if you have another photo open in Photoshop, it will open the new photo on the other photo.*
- In the Photoshop window, if no photos are open, you can click on the **Open** button the left side of the screen and

choose the file.

- In the Photoshop window, you can go to the Menu bar at the top of the screen and click on **File > Open** and then choose the file.

### Step 3: Cropping the image to have just the white paper in the shot

Using the **Crop Tool**  that you will find on the **Tool Bar** on the left of the Photoshop window, you will crop the image down to just show the white paper and nothing outside of it.

- You can rotate the crop window if the paper isn't aligned properly, and you can move the sides to adjust as needed.
  - Holding **SHIFT** while you move the Crop Square will keep the original dimensions of the image for when you crop.
- Click **Enter/Return**, double click on the image, or click on the  at the top of the image panel to **Confirm** your crop.

### Helpful Tip: Zooming In or Out of Your Image in Photoshop

- Using  **+** zooms in to the Photo in Photoshop.
- Using  **-** zooms out of the Photo in Photoshop.
- Using  **0** (zero) brings the Photo back to fit in the window in Photoshop.

### Step 4: (Optional) Adjusting the Brightness of Your Photo

In the **Adjustments Layer** panel on the right side of the Photoshop window, you will find the **Brightness/Contrast** adjustment. You will click on this (You can see this adjustment layer appear in your **Layers** panel) and you will see the **Properties Panel** open. You will have a slider for both Brightness and Contrast, and for this adjustment, you will bring the **Brightness** slider to make it so the white of your paper looks correct.

- It should be White, not gray (too dark) or so bright that the nature items in your photo look unnatural.

### Helpful Tip: Undo in Photoshop

If you do something in Photoshop that was a mistake or you want to go back, click  **Z** to undo.

### Step 5: Using the Invert Adjustment Layer

In the **Adjustments Layer** panel on the right side of the Photoshop window, you will find the **Invert** adjustment. You will click on this (You can see this adjustment layer appear in your **Layers** panel). This is the main effect we are using for our photo to make it into a **Negative**.

### Step 6: (Optional) Adjusting the Contrast of Your Photo

In the **Adjustments Layer** panel on the right side of the Photoshop window, you will find the **Brightness/Contrast** adjustment. You will click on this (You can see this adjustment layer appear in your **Layers** panel) and you will see the **Properties Panel** open. You will have a slider for both Brightness and Contrast, and for this adjustment, you will bring the **Contrast** slider to make it so the black of your paper looks dark fully..

- The background of your image should hopefully be a uniform black.

### Step 7: Exporting Your Photo as a JPEG

To finish with your photo so it's ready to turn into Google Classroom, we need to export it as a JPEG.

1. On the menu bar at the top of the screen, click on **File**.
2. On the dropdown menu, click on **Export**, then **Export As...**
  - a. The keyboard shortcut for **Export As...** for future reference is **OPTION + SHIFT + COMMAND + W**.
3. A window will pop up showing a preview of your image. On the right of the screen you will see under **File Settings** the **Format** option, which by default will be listed as **PNG**. You need to click it then choose **JPG**.
4. On Quality, select the highest setting, so move the slider to the right until it says **7**.

5. At the bottom of the **Export As** window, click on **Export**.
6. A **Save** window will pop up. You need to navigate to your **JPEG** folder in your Project/Photoshoot folder.
7. Click **Save**.

# You're Done!

## A Little Photo History



Before digital cameras, we used film that would have to be developed. We would get back the film negatives, like what's pictured to the left. For our photo prints, they would shine light through the negatives to get the photos how we'd want them. This process was often done in a Dark Room. When the light shone through the negative, all the light places would be *burned* into the light sensitive paper, which would be the dark areas of the image, and all of the black areas of the negative would block the light from touching the light sensitive paper, which would be the lighter areas of the image.

