



Image Mash-up

Digital Image Editing, Collage Art, and Fair Use



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Grade Level	9th – Secondary Grade	Duration	2 periods
Subject	Visual Arts		
Course	Visual Arts		

Essential Question

Is using someone else's art to make your own considered stealing?

Summary

In this visual arts lesson, students will look at examples of photo touch-ups, restoration, and mash-ups. They will practice by attempting to make a mash-up with provided practice images. As a class, students will discuss what they tried to do with the software to make it work, share any tricks learned, and then do a demonstration of some more advanced techniques. Then, students will find their own images to make a mash-up. Students will review their final products using a fair use checklist to determine if they properly using potentially copyrighted material.

Snapshot

Engage

Students view examples from media and historical photo preservation where photo editing software is used as well as a work of collage art. Students discuss if these examples of collage art are considered stealing.

Explore

Students review fair use guidelines and experiment with photo editing software to practice collage art that follows these guidelines.

Explain

Students share progress on collage art with one another and techniques used as well as demonstrate more advanced techniques.

Extend

Students read about the Graphic Artists Guild as well as collage art and fair use and then evaluate collage artworks accordingly. Students then make revisions.

Evaluate

Students reflect on what they thought about using others' art to make new art before this lesson and what they know about this practice now.

Standards

Oklahoma Academic Standards (Fine Arts: Visual Art (High School: Proficient (I)))

I.VA.CP.1.1 : Use the elements of art (e.g., line, color, form, shape, texture, value, and space) and principles of design (e.g., rhythm, balance, contrast, movement, center of interest, and repetition) to develop multiple approaches to create art.

I.VA.CP.2.2 : Understand the legal consequence of appropriation, fair use, copyright, open source, social media, and creative commons as they apply to works of art and design.

I.VA.ARCM.1.4 : Reflect on personal critiques to improve current or future work.

Attachments

- [Fair Use Checklist—Image Mash-up - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Fair Use Checklist—Image Mash-up - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Fair Use Checklist—Image Mash-up.docx](#)
- [Fair Use Checklist—Image Mash-up.pdf](#)
- [Fair Use Reading—Image Mash-up - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Fair Use Reading—Image Mash-up - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Fair Use Reading—Image Mash-up.docx](#)
- [Fair Use Reading—Image Mash-up.pdf](#)
- [I Used to Think... But Now I Know—Image Mash-up - Spanish.docx](#)
- [I Used to Think... But Now I Know—Image Mash-up - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [I Used to Think... But Now I Know—Image Mash-up.docx](#)
- [I Used to Think... But Now I Know—Image Mash-up.pdf](#)
- [Lesson Slides—Image Mash-up.pptx](#)

Materials

- Lesson Slides (attached)
- Fair Use Quick Reference handout (attached)
- Graphic Artists Guild Reading handout (attached)
- I Used to Think... But Now I Know handout (attached)
- Practice image files

40 minutes

Engage

Guide the lesson using the attached **Lesson Slides**. Show **slide 3** for the Essential Question and **slide 4** to review the Lesson Objectives. Move to **slide 5** and introduce the [I Notice/I Wonder](#) strategy and have students view and consider the images on the slide. Have students discuss their thoughts in groups and share out to the class. Repeat the process on **slide 6**, which includes historical photo restoration before-and-after images.

Move to **slide 7** and show the [photo restoration video](#) demonstrating how to do some of the simpler photo repairs. This will help students picture how some of the changes are made to images using editing software. Optionally, play the video at 2x speed to save time.

Embedded video

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=vcriltNQMfl>

Divide the class in half. On **slide 13** have the first half of the class go to the QR code on the left to show the Frida Kahlo collage. Have the other half of the class visit the QR code on the right to show the Vladimir Putin collage. Using the [Think-Pair-Share](#) strategy, have students decide if they believe the image is fair use and record their reason(s) why on a sheet of scrap paper. Then have the students pair up, share their reasons with each other, and negotiate the best response.

Now display **slide 14** and have the students who worked on this slide share their reasoning behind their answers. Repeat the process with **slide 15**, having the student pairs who viewed that image share. Introduce the concepts of copyright and public domain on **slides 16 and 17**. Explain that these examples weigh very strongly in favor of fair use, however both walk along a lot of the same territory as the [Shepard Fairey case](#), which did not produce a clear ruling in favor of fair use. It's important to note that cases that have very similar factors in favor of fair use can swing wildly in different directions depending on the amount of money/profit and/or influence that is at stake with use of the art. Even with a license purchase, a use can gain enough profit and influence that the source material artist will sue for more profit margin, as with the [Warhol v. Goldsmith](#) case.

Revisit the historical painting collage examples from earlier in the lesson on **slide 18** and discuss how public domain and copyright play a role in these two works.

40 minutes

Explore

Teacher's Note: Activity Preparation

Before beginning this activity, download the practice images located in this [Google Drive folder](#) and put them into a shared folder for students to access.

Display **slide 19** and introduce the practice activity to students. Students will access the images provided for them in a shared folder and create an original piece of collage artwork using any combination of these images. They should use a minimum of two images, but can use all of them to make their artwork.

Consider having students use the provided practice images to make their own first mash-up and to get familiar with the software.

Teacher's Note: Photo Editing Software

Consider using the software [Krita](#) for this lesson and demonstrating common photo editing tasks. This software is free and available in the app store for Google Chromebooks. [Adobe Photoshop](#) is the software most professionals use. Another free option with similar functions is [Gimp](#).

Have students save a copy of their original file into the shared folder so everyone can explore one another's processes in the next part of the lesson.

15 minutes

Explain

Display **slide 20** and explain the [Gallery Walk](#) strategy to students. Have each student display their work for a few minutes and talk about what they intended to accomplish, what they discovered, and any challenges they encountered. It's okay if it's not what they want it to be at this point. As the students present, there should be a good amount of shared learning about how they accomplished similar tasks in different ways as well as a variety of different tasks. Prompt students to explain how they found the tools they needed to accomplish something and to help one another find these tools later as they continue to work on these projects.

When everyone has shared, discuss and provide insights on techniques that can make their works even more successful. Consider explaining techniques such as: color matching images, cutting out backgrounds, identifying light sources, making shadows, blending edges, etc.

Optionally, consider demonstrating these techniques with your own copy of the practice files and/or encouraging students to find videos that show techniques. There is a [demonstration video](#) provided with this lesson for some of the basics in Krita on **slide 21**.

Embedded video

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=IFtENo8WSzE>

40 minutes

Extend

Display **slide 22** and pass out a copy of the attached **Fair Use Reading** handout to each student. This reading explains the four criteria to use when considering whether their collages fall under fair use, as well as the background of the Graphic Artists Guild.

When students are finished reading, move to **slide 23** and have them use the Fair Use Checklist to evaluate if the way they used their images qualifies as a fair use. Depending on their evaluation, students can choose to continue working on their practice image to improve it and better apply fair use guidelines *or* make a new collage with their own photographs and/or found images that better meets fair use guidelines.

10 minutes

Evaluate

Display **slide 24** and have students do a short reflective writing using the [I Used to Think... But Now I Know](#) strategy and revisit the essential question: "Is using someone else's art to make your own considered stealing?"

Ask students to write about what they believed about using other's artwork to make their own before this lesson and what they think about it now.

Resources

- K20 Center. (n.d.). I Notice/I Wonder. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/180>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Four Corners. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/138>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). S-I-T (Surprising, Interesting, Troubling). Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/926>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Think-Pair-Share. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/139>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Gallery Walk. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/118>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). I Used to Think... But Now I Know. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/137>
- Hosseini, K. (2019, March 25). Digital Collage [Image]. Behance. <https://www.behance.net/gallery/78005253/Digital-Collage>