



Corita Kent Quick Collage

1-2 hours classroom activity
Grades 9-12, but can be modified
By Alissa Tran, Molalla High School

Lesson Overview: Students will create a Pop art typography collage, using recycled materials, in the style of Corita Kent.

Suggested Posters:

- Corita Kent, *somebody has to break the rules*, 1967

Materials:

- Phrases, words, & quotes cut from magazines and advertisements
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tracing paper
- Construction paper
- Pens or colored pencils
- Optional- Zip lock bags (for organization of materials)
- Completed examples
- Project guidelines and evaluation rubric

Before the Lesson:

1. Gather all materials for project.
2. Set up projector to display Kent poster or print out pdfs from Portland Art Museum website (<http://portlandartmuseum.org/learn/educators/resources/posters/somebody-break-rules/>).
3. Provide copies of guidelines & rubric or info on board so students know expectations.

Lesson Steps:

1. Display Kent poster and discuss key vocabulary- typography, font, positive and negative space, layering, balance, and pop art.
2. Use this information to lead into project guidelines, based on stylistic rules seen in Kent's work. (See guidelines and evolution rubric sheet.)
3. Distribute materials with an example at each table of a completed work.
4. Students use remainder of class to create a quick collage (depending on the length of your class periods and the pace of your students, this could take an additional day).
5. Once collages are complete, have students title and display them.



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Follow up or extension ideas (Optional):

1. Have students write a reflective paragraph about their selection process and layout choices.
2. Discussion topics: All of these words and phrases come from magazines and advertisements. What does that tell us about the values of our culture or the impact of advertising/media in our society? Explain. How does font convey mood? How does size, color, or placement on the page impact mood? Explain.
3. Using the text from your collage (or someone else's?), draw a visual to accompany it.

Modifications and cross-curricular connections:

1. Use magazines or text in languages other than English.
2. Modify word choices and level of complexity for the age group you teach. Precut geometric shapes or stencils.
3. Print passages from poems, songs, literature.
4. Incorporate symbols or formulas from other content areas (math, science, etc).

Vocabulary

- **Typography:** the style, arrangement, and appearance of printed text on a page. The study and design of fonts.
- **Font:** a typeface design for a set of letter characters. Spacing, stroke width, height, angle, and style are characteristics that typographic modify. Examples: helvetica, times roman, etc.
- **Pop Art:** An art movement that emerged in the 1950s and is based on images from popular culture and mass media.
- **Positive space:** the subject or object in a work of art
- **Negative space :** the space around or between objects/subjects in a work of art
- **Collage:** from the French term "to glue." It is a method of art creation where materials are layered together to create a whole work of art.



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Goal: Create a quick collage, inspired by Corita Kent, using typography and shapes to make a balanced, unique, and interesting composition with meaning.

Guidelines:

- 1) Font variety. Use a minimum of three different fonts
- 2) Add shapes with construction paper
- 3) Be selective to create meaning. All words and phrases provided *do not* need to be used.
- 4) Text may be cut down or altered if needed
- 5) Handwritten text can be added if needed
- 6) Well-planned use of space. Your work does not need to be symmetrical, but you should have a planned balance of positive and negative space. It should look intentional!
- 7) Thoughtful text arrangement. Text can be upside down, rotated, flipped, or spaced in a variety of ways. (Hint: tracing paper helps for reversing text.)
- 8) Neatness and craftsmanship. Pieces are cut neatly. All items are glued down well.

Grading/evaluation:

	Exceeds	Meets	Needs improvement
Layout and composition	Shapes and text placement emphasize or enhance meaning and create a visual rhythm or focal point that guides the viewer.	Layout is balanced and intentionally planned with text and shapes.	Layout does not look intentional, planned or balanced. Missing required elements, like text or shapes.
Use of text and problem solving	Variety of fonts and text arrangement to create a novel, unique, and creative solution that enhances meaning. All choices can be justified to support text meaning.	Includes 3 fonts, variety of text arrangements. Word and phrase choices are intentional and make sense.	Does not include font variety. Does not have variety in text arrangement. Word and phrase choices appear random.
Craftsmanship	Work is extremely neat, goes beyond minimum, and demonstrates best effort.	Work is neat and complete	Messy, pieces are falling off, does not show best effort. Work is incomplete.

Comments: