

# Tips for



# Creating your collage

# COLLAGING TIPS & TECHNIQUES

## PREPARATION

Gather supplies needed/suggested.

Collect and sort paper into four (4) piles

1. Papers for backgrounds (wrapping paper, scrapbook paper, or created art paper);
2. Words (look for interesting font and context);
3. Cut designs, images and accents (these could be pictures from books, newspapers, magazines or images taken by students); and
4. Indiscriminately torn paper or patterns or designs.

Glue (preferably matte finish)

Gather tools.

Background paper/canvas.

Background paint or gesso (black or white)

Acrylic paint (assorted colors)

Brush for glue and brush for paint

Scissors

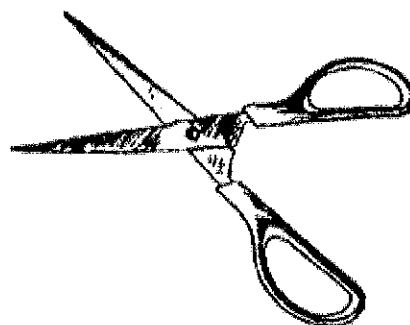
Ruler

Pens and markers

Finishing touches (rubber stamps, inkpads, pens & markers)

## RECOMMENDED GLUING TECHNIQUE

Three steps when gluing paper to artwork; brush location on base paper, brush back of designated paper with glue, and after sticking design to base paper cover with light coat of glue with brush.

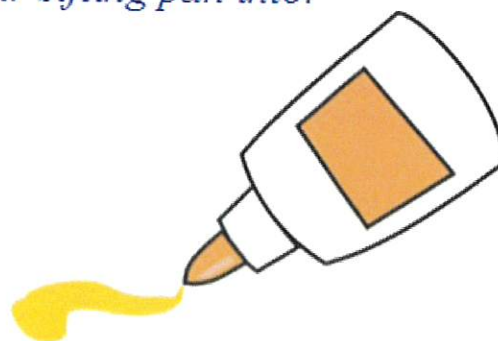
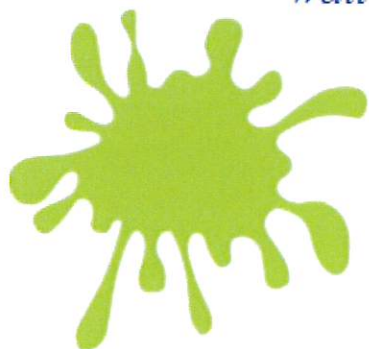


On the following pages, you will find  
**10 techniques**  
to help you assemble pieces for your collage  
and transform it from a “collection” to a  
“creation”. These techniques may be used to  
help push you through creative roadblocks that  
may pop up while creating. They can also add  
cohesiveness, focus and interest to your piece.



*“One fun outcome while practicing collaging  
is that you find yourself becoming a  
“treasure-hunter”.*

*All those stacks of dusty magazines you didn't  
have the heart to throw out  
become a gold-filled stream you can't  
wait to dip your sifting pan into.”*



You start "seeing" the rich treasury of images,  
symbols, even text and font.

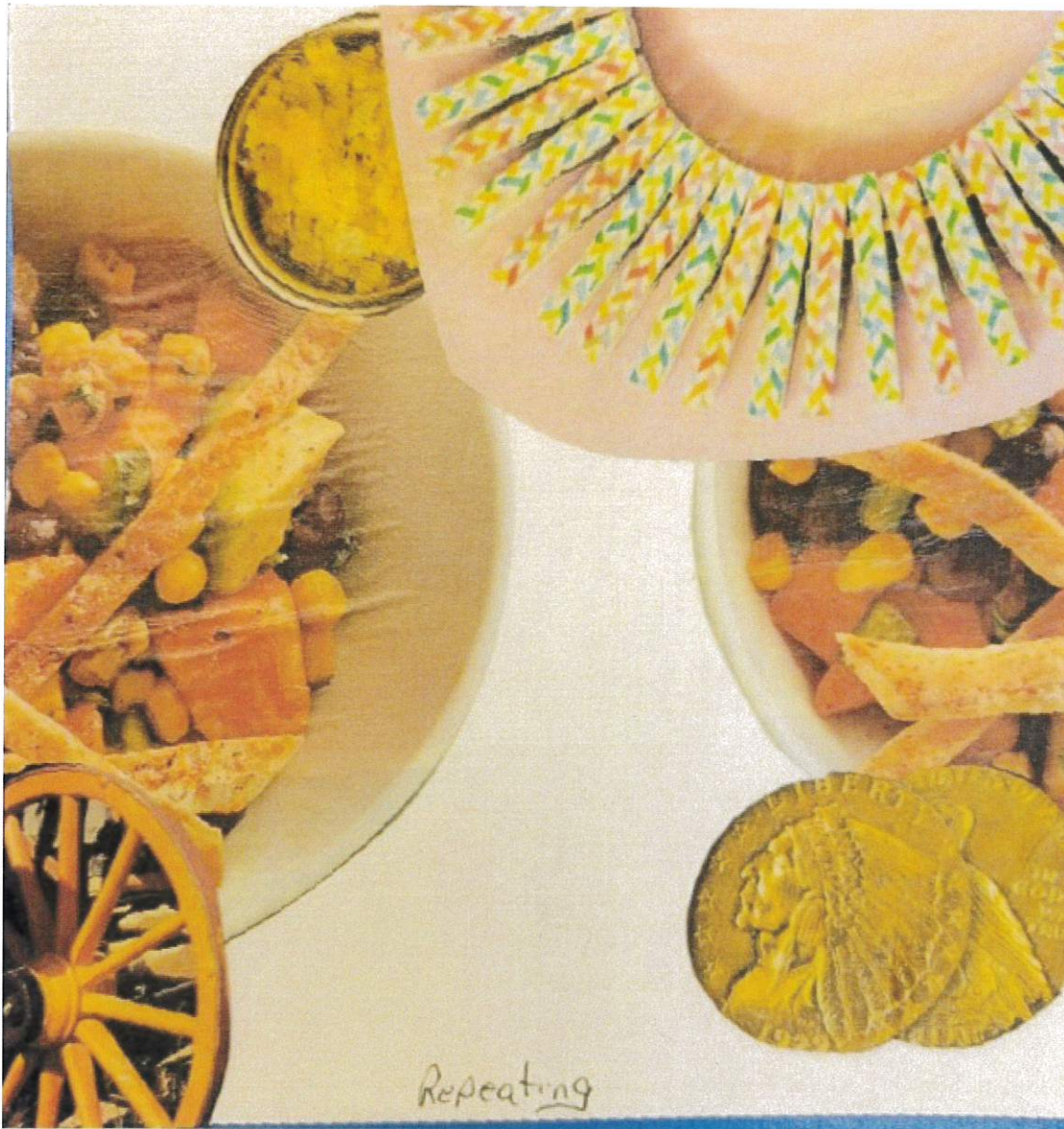
Practice each technique on the 10 provided  
paper blocks and label each one as shown.

# 1. OVERLAPPING



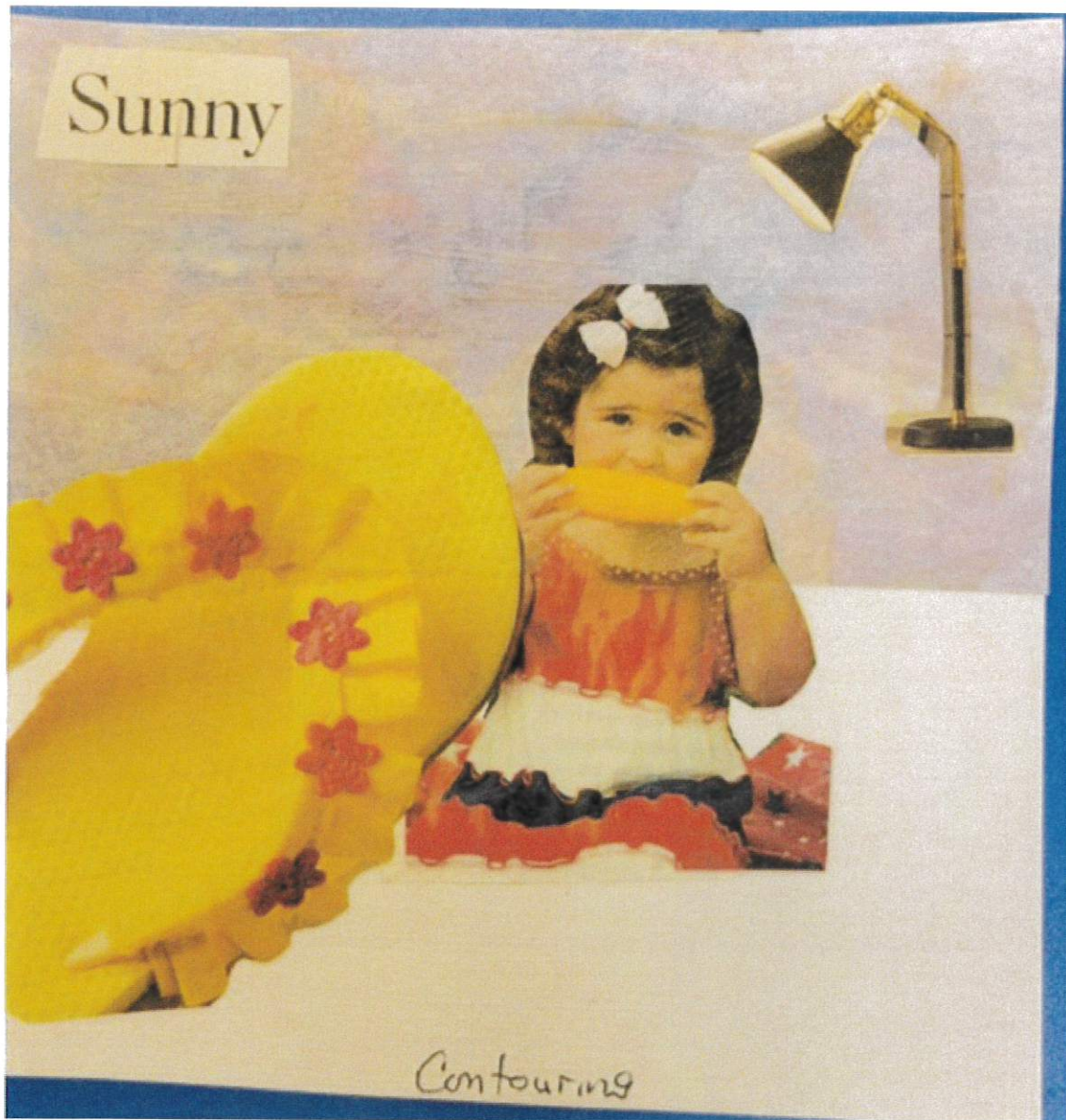
- ◆ Simply overlap pictures/words/etc.
- ◆ Creates connectivity, and cohesiveness

## 2. REPEATING



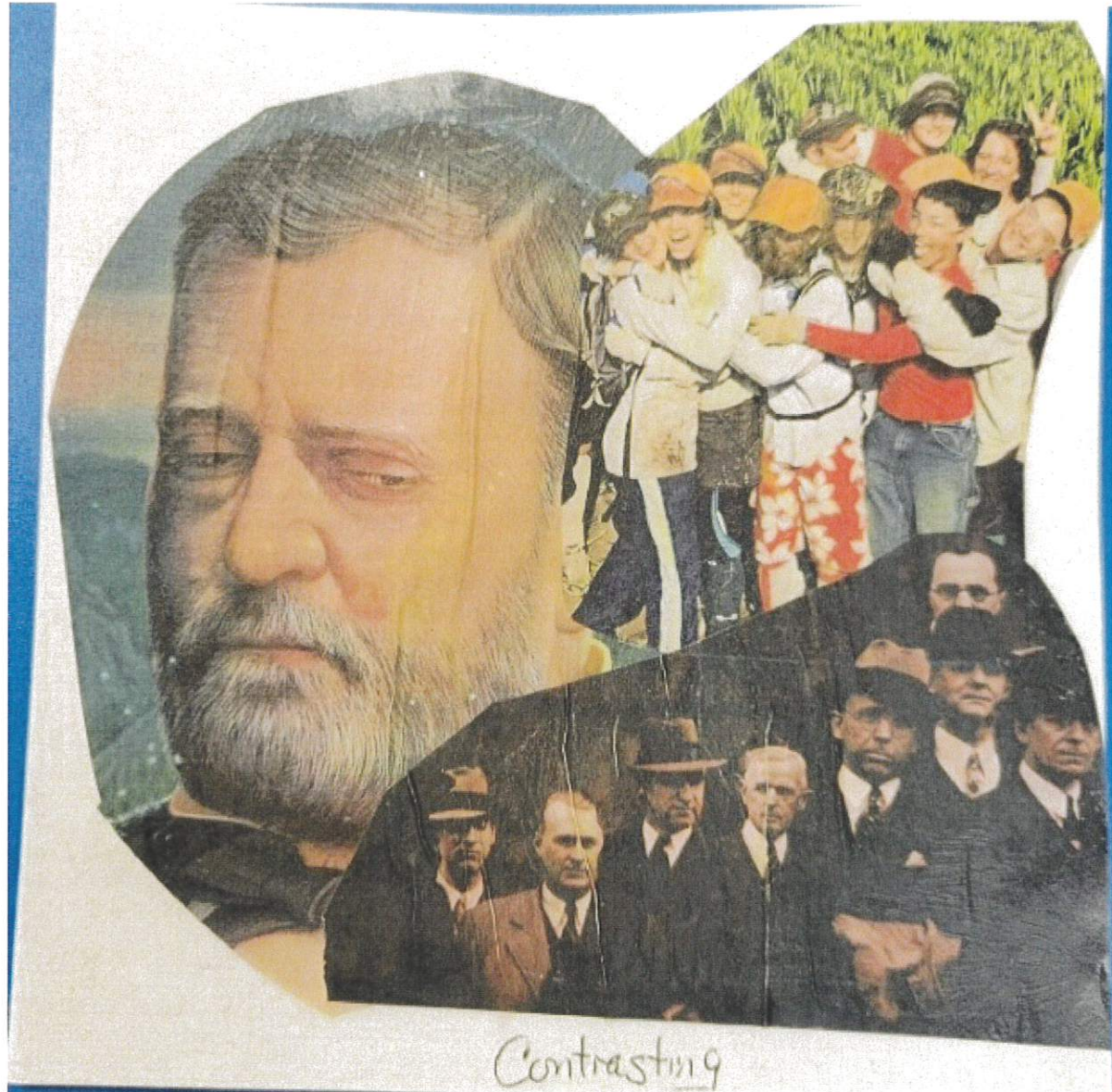
- ◆ Repeat shapes, colors, etc.
- ◆ Makes you feel warm and cozy – familiarity (literally or figuratively/conceptually)
- ◆ Same papers, designs, subjects, shapes, colors
- ◆ Remember to use odd numbers (3 is best) (2 is a “tennis match” with your eyes)

### 3. CONTOURING



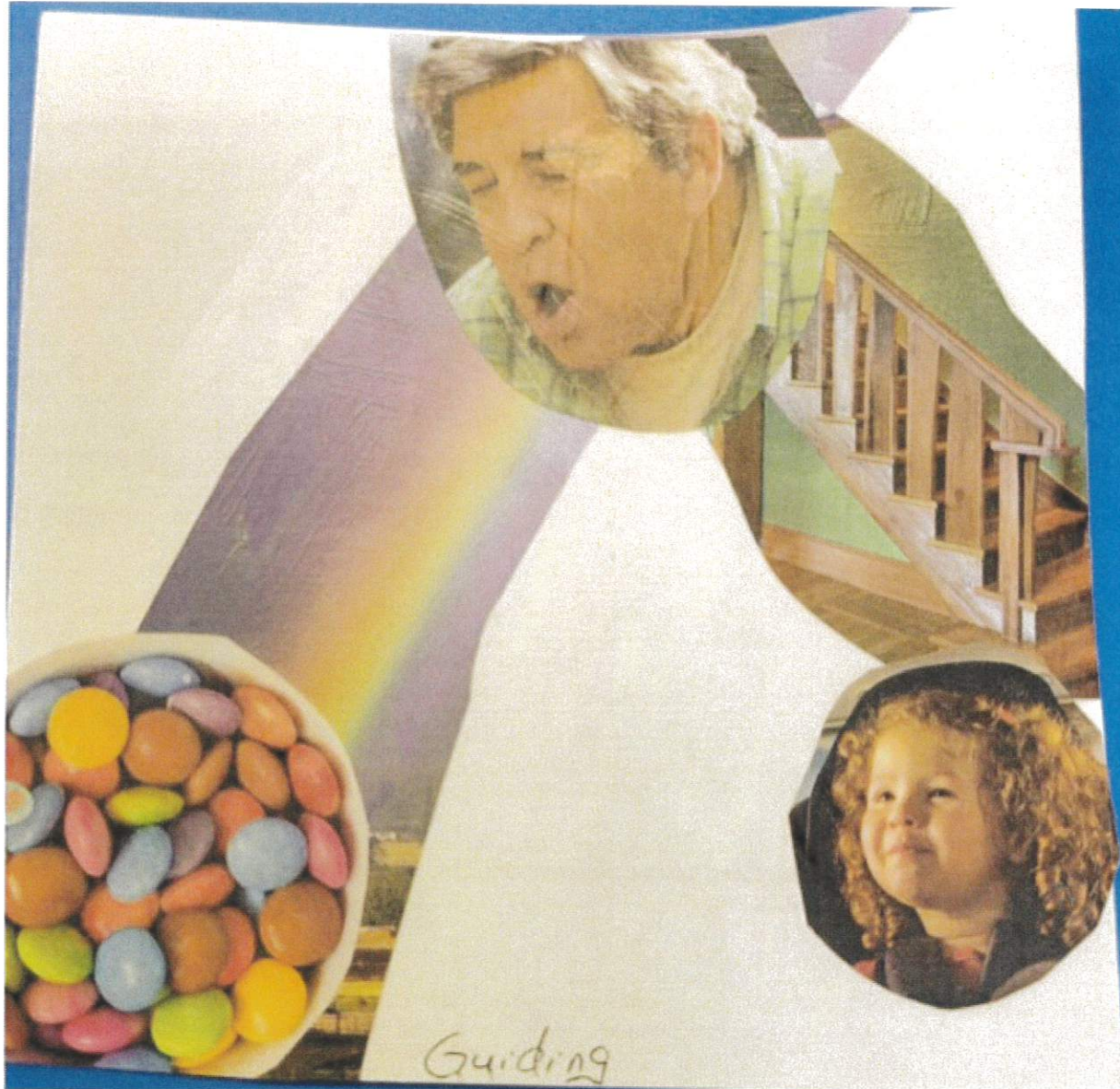
- ◆ Cut out images and clip away background of images
- ◆ Makes image more organic – not just “grab-&-go”
- ◆ Makes image more interesting
- ◆ Allows you to see “layers” in your collage
- ◆ Let it speak to you
- ◆ Partial pictures (off edge of paper) gives illusion of continuation (more)

## 4. CONTRASTING



- ◆ Exciting for your viewer
- ◆ Extremes using color, shape, contour or ideas (i.e. joy/sorrow, shiny/matte, refined/unconventional)
- ◆ Makes it more of a story (dimensional)

## 5. GUIDING



- ◆ Controlling the way viewer sees work – pathway
- ◆ Journey guide for the viewer
- ◆ Side to side, up & down, diagonal, around
- ◆ Shapes (arrow by nature guides you)
- ◆ Highlight focal image



## 6. SEPARATING



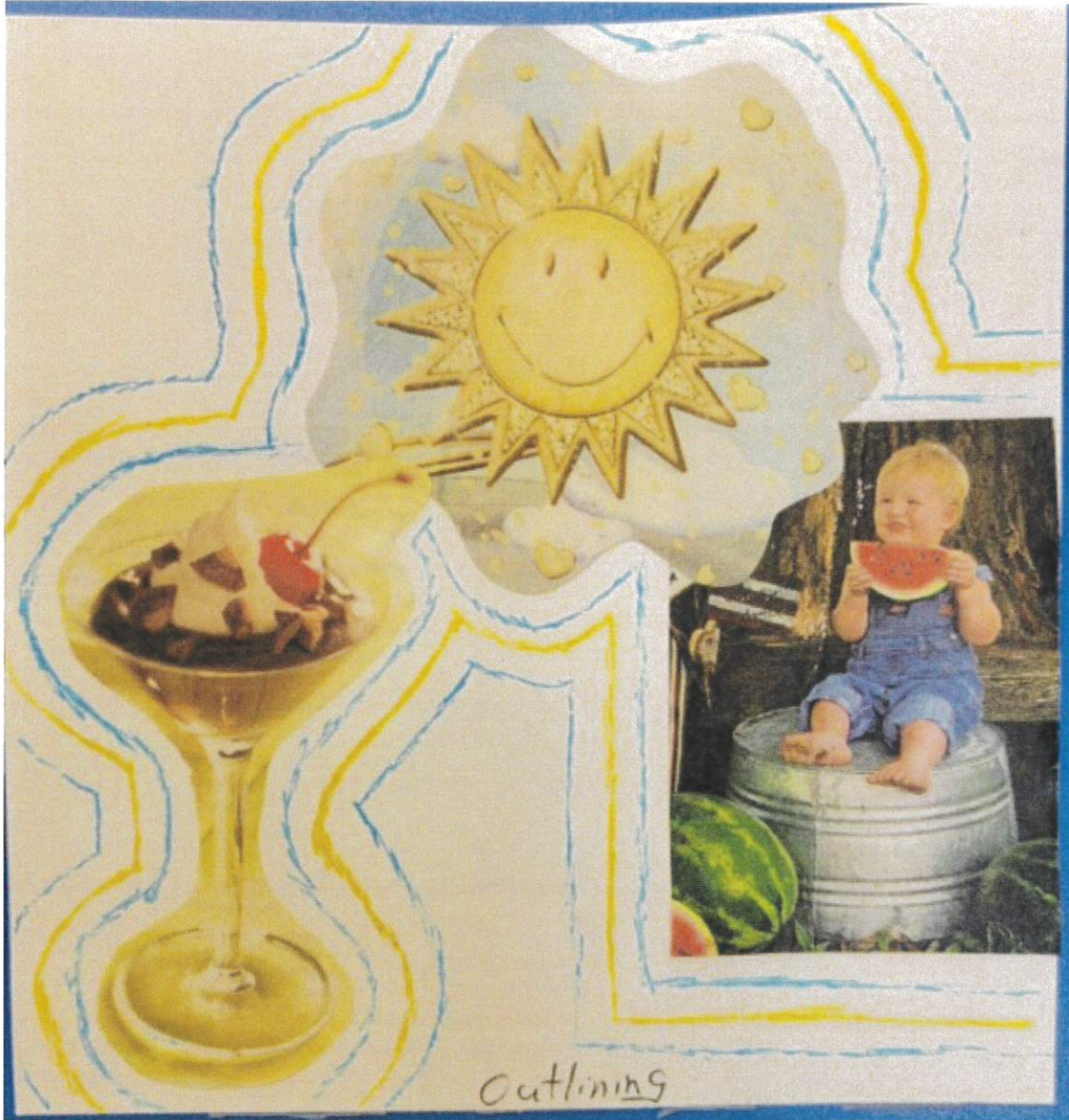
- ◆ Gives layers (want background to show through)
- ◆ Makes dimensional
- ◆ Can separate words (letters) and pictures
- ◆ Expresses emotions

## 7. CONNECTING



- ◆ Draw lines between objects
- ◆ Makes “floating” pieces connected with lines, dots, strips of paper, etc.
- ◆ Lines non-dramatic
- ◆ Makes floating pieces “grounded” or “tethered to”
- ◆ Adds an element of movement

## 8. OUTLINING



- ◆ Outline grounds piece into background
- ◆ Gives dimension
- ◆ Makes picture pop
- ◆ Can be close to object, straight, “sketchy”
- ◆ Gives artist chance for self-expression

## 9. HIGHLIGHTING



- ◆ One element as “focus”
- ◆ “where am I going to look FIRST”
- ◆ Highlight with color, size, placement

## 10. INTEGRATING



- ◆ “finishing touches”
- ◆ Makes a subtle cohesive pull
- ◆ Different colors or black/white
- ◆ Add texture, dimension and integrates focused colors
- ◆ Paint – dry wash, subtle splattering (toothbrush)

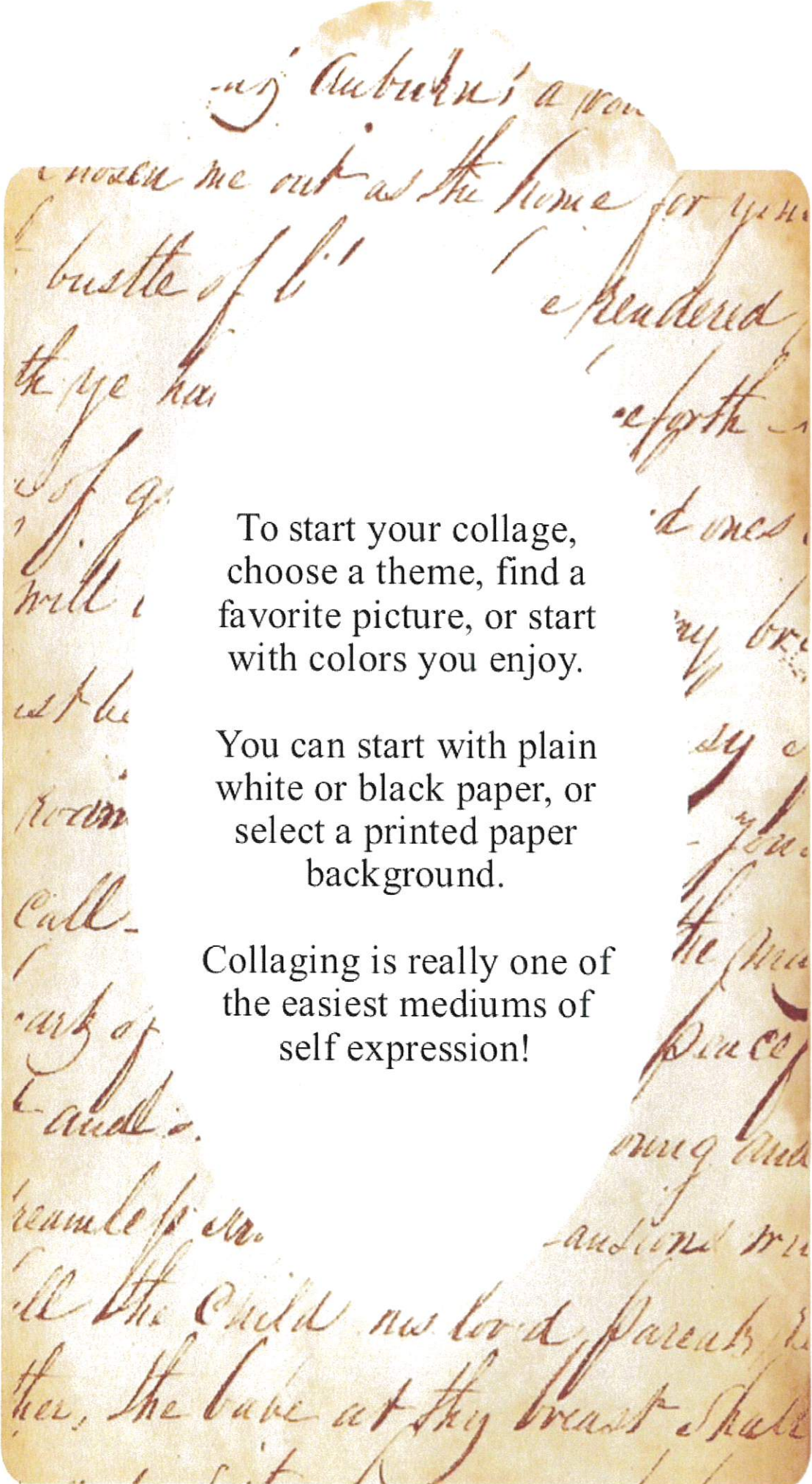
## CREATE A COLLAGE

Collaging is one of the easiest ways to explore your own feelings, imaginations and creativity. In this packet you will find supplies to start attaching pictures and words onto your own collage board. And, of course, this is only the beginning. Start going through your own collection of magazines or print online images that impress or move you.

Some tips for fun collages:

- ◆ Don't feel you have to use everything available. You can create interesting collages focused on themes, colors, places or to make a statement.
- ◆ Words and phrases can make the collage have meaning. They can be cut out of magazines, or printed and added
- ◆ Vary the sizes, elements and shapes of your cut-outs
- ◆ Add book/article text
- ◆ Use different papers such as magazines/newspaper clippings, construction or tissue paper, or scrapbook/wrapping paper
- ◆ Feel free to add paint or fabric
- ◆ More ideas on collage art:
- ◆ <https://www.thecuriouslycreative.com/collage-art-ideas/>

**Enjoy – Imagine – Create!**



To start your collage, choose a theme, find a favorite picture, or start with colors you enjoy.

You can start with plain white or black paper, or select a printed paper background.

Collaging is really one of the easiest mediums of self expression!

Brought to you by:



WINFIELD  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

and



This initiative is made possible by a Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries grant, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL).