

Carrie Schoenborn
Molly Switalski

Big Idea: Journeys

What are types of journeys that people travel in life?
Are all journeys physical journeys?
What defines a journey?
How do we know when a journey is over?
Where do you go on a journey?
When does a journey begin?
What did you do on your journey?
Did your journey take any unexpected turns?

Key Concepts

We take many journeys in life.
There are many types of journeys, some physical and some not.
Not all journeys have a definite beginning and end.
A journey involves movement of some kind.
Journeys result in changes.
A journey fulfills a desire or solves a problem.

Key Questions

What physical journeys have you taken in life?
What other types of journeys have you taken in life?
Where have these journeys lead you?
Why did you take these journeys?

Lesson 1

Goal: The goal is to make students aware the basics of Photoshop, and how the meanings of images change through juxtaposition and manipulation.

Objective: To have students use their Photoshop capabilities and work collaboratively in groups to change the meaning of an image by alteration and addition with other images through means of Photoshop tools.

Materials Needed:

- Magazines
- Computer lab
- Photoshop software

Anticipatory Set:

Have celebrity magazines on the students' desks that are school appropriate. Have them take a few minutes to look through them. Follow up by having a short discussion how and why images are enhanced through computer manipulation. Ask them how the computer enhancement creates different meanings to the viewers.

Instruction

Have students get into groups of 3-4 people.

Have each group find an image online that deals with a social issue.

They must add at least two other images and use four different Photoshop tools to change the meaning to create one new manipulated image.

Tell the students that the context must be school appropriate.

Assessment:

Students will present their group project and explain to the rest of the class how they changed the meaning of the original image and what tools they used. They must explain why they added/subtracted the elements in the work that help to convey the meaning(s) in the manipulated image.

15 points for student participation.

10 points each for student group project completion.

Lesson 2

Objective:

- Students will write about one or two problems they have had in life and the journey that problem lead them on.
- Students will use Photoshop to create 3 postcards that represent different parts of that journey.

Materials Needed:

- worksheet
- writing utensil
- computer with Photoshop
- printer
- images (brought from home, found images or a combination)

Instructions:

A journey is not always something physical. Often times a journey can begin in our life without us even knowing it. We may even complete an entire journey and not realize it until after it is over. We may go on a journey to try to fulfill a desire we have or we may need to go on a journey in order to solve a problem. You are going to use this worksheet to think about some of the journeys you have taken in life. Then you will use Photoshop to create three postcards that tell about your journey.

REMEMBER: THIS IS A SCHOOL PROJECT. KEEP ALL INFORMATION AND REPRESENTATIONS APPROPRIATE. DO NOT USE NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THIS SCHOOL WITHOUT THEIR PRIOR CONSCENT.

List some problems that you have had in life.

Choose two or three of the problems/desires listed above and elaborate on them using the following questions.

- How did the problem begin?
- What are some things that happened as a result of this problem?
- Were there any failed attempts to solve this problem?
- Has the problem been resolved? If so, how?
- Any other important steps that occurred on this journey?

After students have completed the worksheet they will choose one of the problems that they elaborated on that they find the most interesting. They must choose the information that is most important for depicting the journey through that problem. They should have some information that sets up the problem (the beginning of the journey), some information that depicts the resolution of the problem (the end of the journey) and some information about another step in the journey.

Students will approve their information with the teacher before beginning.

Students will brainstorm images they can use to represent each phase of the journey.

Students will create 3 postcards:

- 1 for the beginning of the journey
- 1 for the end of the journey
- at least 1 for the steps that occurred between the beginning and end

Postcards should include images on the front and writing on the back that both support the idea trying to be conveyed.

Assessment

The following will be used to evaluate the project:

- Did the student complete all three postcards on time? (5 points)
- Was the progression of the journey evident with a clear beginning, middle and end each represented on a different postcard? (5 points)
- Did the student thoughtfully complete the worksheet? (5 points)
- Did the student demonstrate proficient skills and knowledge of Photoshop? (5 points)

Lesson 3

Objective:

- Students will create a visual map of a route they take everyday
- Students will use Photoshop to manipulate images
- Students will create a series of images that connect visually

Materials Needed:

- computer with photoshop
- printer
- digital camera

Instructions:

To be done before class: Students will be instructed to take images of a journey they take each day. They should take pictures of anything they see along the way. They should take a minimum of 50 images. The images should be printed in thumbnail size for class. (images should be cut apart)

Students will spend the first 10 minutes of class sorting images, looking for connections between images. They should look for similar shapes, colors or textures in photographs.

The students will choose 7 to 10 of the strongest images to work with in Photoshop.

Students will use Photoshop to enhance the connections between the photos by emphasizing shape, color or texture relationships. They should create a cohesive series of images with one leading to the next creating a 'visual map' of the route they take.

Assessment:

Each student will write about another student's series of images and answer the following questions: Is there an element that holds these images together? What?

Do these images flow from one to the next?

Describe the images and their relationship to one another in as much detail as possible.

5 points for having thumbnails of 50 images

10 points for creating a cohesive series

10 points for thoughtfully completing an evaluation of another student's work

HANDOUT ON PHOTOSHOP TOOLS

Menus

The menus across the top of the screen contain the commands that enable you to open and manipulate files. They are accessed by simply clicking and holding the mouse and dragging down to the desired command.

When you see an arrow or an ellipsis off to the right of a menu command, that indicates that there is either a subcommand, in the case of the arrow, or a dialog box, in the case of the ellipsis.

NOTE: The menus are handy, but time-consuming. Every time that you have to move the mouse pointer up to one is a distraction from the work at hand. To speed your work there are keyboard equivalents to the menu commands.

Toolbox

The toolbox is command central for Photoshop. It is where you select the tools you will use to edit images. It should always be open and available for you to access. To select a tool, simply click it. The toolbox has more to it than meets the eye. Notice the tiny arrows at the lower right of some of the tools buttons. This indicates that if you click and hold your mouse button a roll-out menu will appear with other variations on the tool. Now that we know where to find the menus and toolbox, let's talk about some of the tools that are useful to editing images.

Magnifying Views

This is an incredibly useful feature for viewing as well as editing images. When you magnify an image, it enables you to do precision work. You can edit on a pixel-by-pixel basis, which gives you very fine control over your subject.

NOTE: Pixel is short for picture element. These are the little squares on your screen that make up an image. If you zoom in really close (say around 1000%), you can see them.

The Zoom Tool

The Zoom tool is found at the bottom of the toolbox. It resembles a magnifying glass with a (+) sign in it. To magnify an image, select this tool and click in the canvas. There are several modifier keys that go along with the Zoom tool. If you press Alt (Command on a Macintosh), the (+) sign changes to a (-) sign. This reduces, or zooms out, of an image. The primary difference between this tool and using the menu commands is that with the Zoom tool you can zoom into particular areas of an image, whereas the Window+Zoom In affects the entire image. To zoom into a specific area of an image with the Zoom tool, click and hold the mouse button down. This will enable you to drag a marquee (a selection sometimes referred to as the "marching ants") to the area you want to magnify. When you have selected the desired area, simply release the mouse button and the magnification will occur.

The Marquee Tools

The Marquee tools, Elliptical and Rectangular, are found in the upper left corner of the Toolbox. These tools are so important to most Photoshop users that they are, at least the Rectangular one, selected by default when the application is opened.

To swap back and forth between the Marquee tools and the Crop tool, you can click and hold on the tool. A selection will roll-out and you will be able to select the desired tool. You also can select the different Marquee tools in the options palette drop-down menu (Window+Show Options).

1. Click the Marquee tool in the Toolbox.
2. Move the tool over the canvas--the cursor will appear as a crosshair.
3. While over the canvas, click and hold the mouse button.
4. Drag out a marquee. Experiment with dragging out an elliptical marquee. Try to get a sense for how they appear. Try dragging from different directions.

Crop Tool

If there are certain portions of the photo that you do not want, simply select the cropping tool and select the area you want to keep. Photoshop will crop out the unwanted portions of the photo.

Feathering Selections

Feathering is a term that indicates a slight blurring. It is a great technique to use when you want to avoid sharp edges or abrupt color changes.

You can feather selections by specifying a desired amount in the Marquee options palette. You won't see any evidence of feathering in the marquee itself beyond a rounding of the corners. The higher the number you enter as the feather radius, the more rounded the corners become. Feathering only takes place after you fill the selected area, because it is a gradual lightening of pixels.

If you prefer not to specify a general feather size in the Marquee tool options palette, you can feather individual selections differently by selecting Select+Feather. In this dialog box, you can set the feather size up to 250 pixels.

The Lasso Tools

As useful as the Marquee tools and their modifier keys are, there will come times when you will have to select irregular shapes. Perhaps you might need to select a person out of a crowd. You can go about this in two ways. The first is more difficult up front. You can either painstakingly follow the outline of the flower with the Lasso tool (which is difficult, but if you can do it, that's great). The other option is for those of us with

unsteady hands or impatient brains. Photoshop has taken us into consideration also. Go ahead and make a less precise selection and use the Magic Wand tool.

The Eyedropper

Sometimes you need to paint over part of the image, either to fill in scratches or to remove unwanted lines, spots, or in-laws. Use the Eyedropper tool to select a color to paint with. Simply click the Eyedropper on any color in the image that you want to replicate, and that color becomes the foreground color, ready to apply with the Paintbrush, Airbrush, or whatever painting tool you choose. All you need to do to paint in the background is to find another spot in the picture where the color or gray shade is the same one that you'd like to use. Select the Eyedropper and click it to make that color the foreground color. Then, use your brush to paint in the selected shade. Smudge the edges very slightly if necessary to make the new paint blend in.