Class Project: Design a mood board using Photoshop

Setting Up Your Photoshop Canvas

1. Create a 1200x800px document for the web

1200px width x 800px height 72 pixels/inch RGB
2. Arrange your workspace to fit your needs and taste

Arrange your windows to your liking and poke around to see what the various windows and tools are. Feel free to keep it on the default setting. I sure do!
3. **Add guides to your canvas**

Command+R shows and hides your rulers. Take your cursor and click and drag on the rulers to bring down guides. Once you have guides in place, command+; hides and shows those guides.
**Editing Photography**

1. **Find an image that needs some love**

   Go through your photo collection or find a photo online that needs to be edited.

2. **Use adjustment layers to edit/enhance your image**

   Use the adjustment layers we learned (levels, brightness/contrast, photo filter) along with new ones to make your image even better.
3. Cut something out of an image using the pen tool

Grab that pen tool and cut something out of your image. Make sure to have your pen tool set on path or you’ll just be drawing a shape. Then, make sure to close your path, move over to the path window and click the dotted circle. Go back to your layers window and either copy/paste, cut/paste, or delete your selection.

Bonus: Try select > inverse once you see the dotted line around your cut out. This selects everything besides what you’ve cut out!

4. Add a new background to your cut out

Use the shape tool or place an image to add a new background to the element you cut out.
Working With Typography

1. Choose your favorite font and type something

Feel free to visit My Fonts for paid fonts and Font Squirrel for great free fonts.

2. Adjust your type

Try changing the font size, letter spacing, line height, and color of your text.
3. **Use layer styles to jazz up your type**

Try my letterpress style effect or go crazy with your own effects. Explore the various layer styles to see what you can do.

*Bonus: Try using layer styles on other layers that aren't text (photos and shapes). See what happens!*
Color Inspiration

1. Find an inspiration image

   Try browsing through Pinterest or make a Gimme Bar or Icebergs account to catalog your inspiration.

2. Add the image's colors to your swatches

   Sample the colors from your inspiration image and add those colors with the eyedropper tool (shortcut = i) to your swatches window.
3. Make shapes and go crazy

Use the pen tool or shape tool to make shapes in your new colors! Try making a 5 sided shape, a skinny rectangle, and a 8px thick line.
Putting It All Together: Making a Mood Board

1. Add guides to kick off your mood board

Create borders and designated areas for your images with guides. Don’t forget you can hide and show your guides with command+;.

2. Add shapes to create your design's outline
Use the shape tool to add rectangles to your design. These will be the basic structure for your moodboard.

3. **Add and arrange your images**

Start placing your images (*file > place*). Arrange the images so they are visually pleasing. Make sure to bring in colors from your color swatches in these images, it will make your moodboard more cohesive. Try varying textures and color saturation in these images. Make sure to name your layers so that you don’t get confused!
4. **Add color and typography**

Incorporate your color swatches as solid rectangles or circles to the design. Find a font that represents your mood board and add it to one of the remaining rectangles.

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**Additional Resources**

Handy Photoshop shortcut guide from the folks at ZeroLag

Article: Print vs. Web

Article: Photoshop Workspace Basics

Article: Position with Guides and Grid

Article: Photo Retouching Tips And Tricks In Photoshop

Article: Partial Black & White Effect using Photoshop

Typography Inspiration: Friends of Type

Free Fonts: Font Squirrel

Paid Good Fonts: My Fonts

Article: Mastering Photoshop Techniques: Layer Styles

Beautiful Stock Photography: Stocksy

Visual Organization: Gimme Bar

Visual Organization: Icebergs

**Color Collective:** Finding Inspiration Images & Sampling Colors

**Mood Boards to Inspire!**

Article: How To Make Creative Mood Boards