

MAKER LAB STUDIO GAZETTE

MADE FOR MINDS THAT MATTER

WHO AM I AS A DESIGNER

Ms. Balogun is not your average teacher—she’s a designer, innovator, and lifelong creator who believes that art and technology can change the world. With over 20 years of experience in commercial arts, she brings a unique blend of professional design knowledge and passion for student growth to every lesson. Whether it’s using Adobe Photoshop or building digital portfolios, her classes are where imagination meets skill.

Her design journey started with a love for storytelling through visuals. Inspired by everything from Marvel movies to typography, Ms. Balogun blends bold color, symbolism, and real-world relevance in every project she creates. She’s always exploring new tools and trends in design to stay ahead—and she encourages her students to do the same. For her, design isn’t just about making things look good—it’s about solving problems, expressing identity, and sparking change.

In the Maker Lab, Ms. Balogun empowers students to discover who they are as artists, thinkers, and creators. She challenges them to design with purpose and to use their creativity to make their voices heard. “Design is powerful,” she says. “It’s how we tell our story and shape the world around us.” With her guidance, students don’t just learn software—they learn how to think, reflect, and create like real designers.

“Design isn’t about having all the answers—it’s about being brave enough to ask the right questions, explore your voice, and turn your ideas into something the world can see.”

Ms. Balogun



Focus Tools: Photoshop, Illustrator

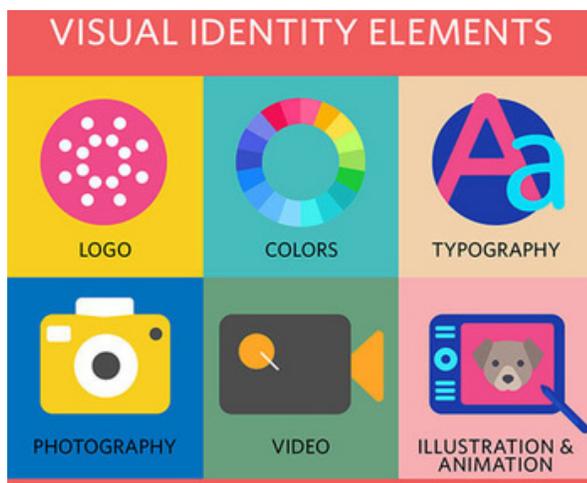
Project 1: Digital Identity Collage (Photoshop + Illustrator)

- **Discover:** Visual storytelling; symbols of identity
- **Define:** What visual elements represent me?
- **Design:** Sketch composition
- **Develop:** Create in Photoshop/Illustrator
- **Deliver:** Class gallery + reflection Padlet

WHO ARE YOU AS A DESIGNER



DISCOVER STAGE: DISCOVERING VISUAL IDENTITY



Essential Question: How can design be used to tell my personal story?

Goals:

- Deepen understanding of visual symbolism
- Organize references into an identity board
- Begin ideating for final composition

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Essential Question: What makes you YOU—and how can that be represented visually?

Goals:

- Identify symbols, objects, and colors that represent personal identity
- Explore how visuals communicate meaning
- Begin visual reference collection for future design work

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DEFINE STAGE: VISUAL BRAINSTORMING



Essential Question: How can I begin turning ideas about my identity into a visual plan?

Goals:

- Brainstorm shapes, textures, objects, and colors reflect identity
- Learn how mood boards support visual planning and inspiration

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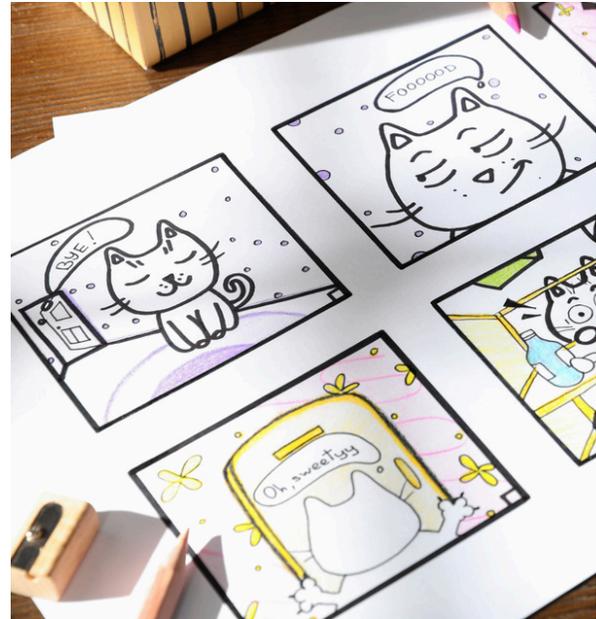
Essential Question: How can I use a mood board to guide my design?

Goals:

- Create a personal digital mood board using curated images and colors
- Write a clear design statement defining the message behind their collage

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DESIGN STAGE: THUMBNAIL SKETCHING



Essential Question: How can I plan my design visually before starting in Photoshop?

Goals:

- Practice Photoshop basics
- Create thumbnail sketches to plan layout
- Understand how layout supports message

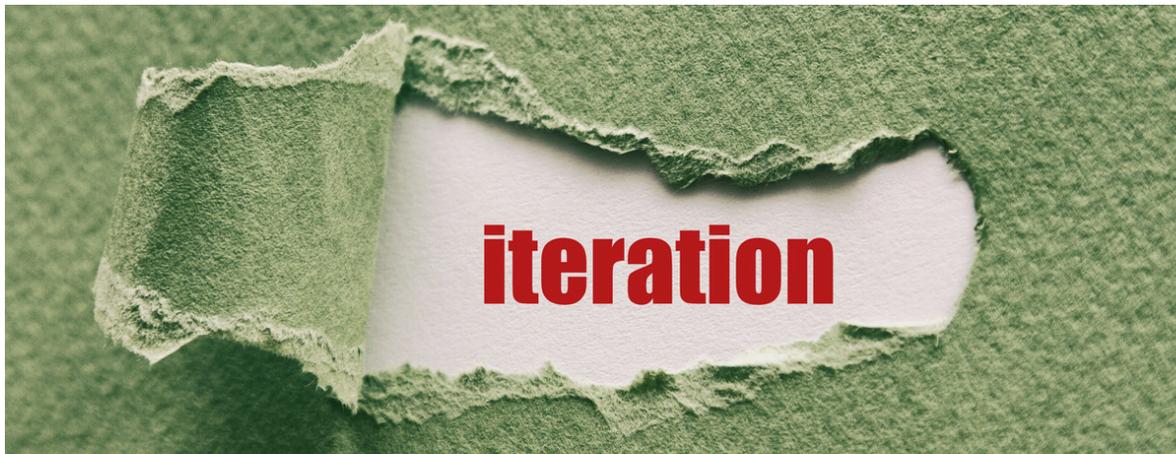
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Essential Question: What layout best supports my visual message and how can I begin building it?

Goals:

- Practice Illustrator tools
- Decide on final Layout
- Receive Feedback on visual storytelling choices

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DEVELOP & DELIVER STAGE: FINAL COMPOSITION

Essential Question: How can I begin building my collage by combining Illustrator and Photoshop?

Goals:

- Setup Photoshop canvas with intentional size/resolution
- Import Illustrator elements
- Begin assembling base composition with layers

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Essential Question: How can I use effects and visual hierarchy to strengthen my collage?

Goals:

- Apply layer effects and blending techniques
- Use visual hierarchy and balance intentionally
- Refine composition with feedback

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Essential Question: What feedback can help me improve my final composition before delivery?

Goals:

- Receive teacher feedback
- Make purposeful refinements
- Prepare for final presentation and Wordpress webpage (Portfolio)

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DELIVER STAGE

Essential Question: How does reflecting on our creative process help us grow as a designer?

Goals:

- Gallery view with constructive feedback
- Final written reflection and closure take away from this process

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