

How to Make a Collage to Communicate an Idea *by David McKoski*

*This activity can support CCSSR2—Determine **central ideas or themes** of a text and analyze their development; **summarize the key supporting details and ideas** if students base their collage on a “close reading” of a text—identifying the theme of a work of fiction and then listing the parts of the story that support that theme or identifying the central idea of a work of nonfiction and then listing the ideas and most important supporting information from that reading.*

- ❖ First, choose the theme or idea your collage will communicate.
- ❖ List the kinds of images you will include to show that idea.
- ❖ Collect or draw the images you need.
- ❖ Then make your collage to communicate your idea.

Constructing the Collage:

1. Cut freely around the shapes and images you are going to collage.
2. Stay away from cutting out square, rectangular or other geometric shapes when cutting out the images. Organic shapes will make a more interesting collage and create a unified picture.
3. The collage should look like a new picture and not separate pictures glued to a piece of paper.
4. First create the background of the object or picture.
5. Add other images over the background.
6. Combine parts from different sources to create a new picture. (Taking pictures directly from magazines or newspapers limits a child’s representation to images found only in mass media.) For example:
 - a. When making a collage of a person find body parts from different sources and then combine them together to create an entirely new person.
 - b. Instead of looking for the exact picture create your pictures from images of textures, patterns or colors.
7. Cut or tear your pictures. Torn paper adds variety to the collage.