

# Editing Images with Canva, Part 2: Layers, Export and the Honest Edit

40 minutes Following My Interests Online

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Students layer text over their image, export it in the right format, then judge their own edits against whether the result still represents what was there.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Layer text and shapes over an image and control the stacking order
- Choose between PNG and JPG for a given purpose
- Export a design and verify the exported file
- Judge which of your own edits are fair and which could mislead

BEFORE THE BELL

- CANVA NEEDS AN ACCOUNT. Students sign up free with their school email. Sort this out BEFORE the lesson: if the class signs up during the period you will lose ten minutes and some students will not get in at all. Check your school allows the sign-up and that the email domain works.
- Canva's labels were checked on 14 Aug 2026 and all still exist. Three things sit differently to how you might expect: Create a design is in the top LEFT on a laptop, the crop control is an icon whose label only shows on hover, and you scroll down the edit panel to reach Filters. Everything else is where the lesson says.
- The practical work is steps 3 to 5. Keep step 2 tight so it survives. For each of those steps, demonstrate live in Canva on the board first (one action at a time), then let students match the same moves on their own devices using the step-by-step interactive as their checklist. Do not rely on the interactive itself to pace a board walkthrough.
- Run step 6 as a discussion, not a lecture. The crop question is the one that makes this a media literacy lesson rather than a software tutorial.
- Devices with a browser; a Canva account per student.

WHAT YOU NEED

| Item                            | Qty | Per     | If you do not have it                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|-----|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chromebook/<br>Laptop/PC        |     | student |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Canva account<br>(school email) |     |         | REQUIRED. Free, but each student must sign up with a school email BEFORE the lesson. Signing up during the period costs about ten minutes and some students will not get in. |

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| HOW THE LESSON RUNS |              |                                |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 min               | introduction | Start                          |
| 5 min               | content      | What layering means            |
| 12 min              | activity     | Hands-on: Text over your image |
| 8 min               | activity     | Hands-on: Export it properly   |
| 10 min              | activity     | Your Turn: the honest edit     |
| 2 min               | summary      | What you covered               |