

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

40 minutes

Following My Interests Online

Outcome 3.8

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. This lesson counts towards outcome 3.8: students use these editing skills to build their digital montage in the montage lessons that follow.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
3.8	create a digital montage on a specific topic of interest from images sourced online while applying learning regarding copyright, fair use, plagiarism, and intellectual property ownership

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, and this has to be sorted 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 that your school allows the sign-up and that the email domain works.
- Step 1 asks every student to open the design they made in Editing Images with Canva, Part 1: their cropped, resized and adjusted image. The whole lesson builds on that design, so before the lesson check that the class has done Part 1 and that their designs are saved in their Canva accounts.
- The work in Canva is steps 3 and 4, and step 5 is where students judge their own edits, so spend only a couple of minutes on step 2 and use the stacked sheets of paper rather than talking through layers, or the time for making runs short. For each of the two Canva 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 instructions as their checklist. Set your own pace at the board and let students read ahead or fall behind in their own instructions, because if you follow the on-screen steps yourself you end up waiting for the slowest device and the demonstration stalls.
- Step 5, the honest edit, works as a discussion rather than a lecture, and there is nothing to demonstrate in Canva: students look back at the design they have already made and judge each edit against the three questions on screen. The crop question is what makes this a media literacy lesson rather than a software tutorial, so give students time to answer it themselves before you offer an example.

WHAT YOU NEED

Item	Qty	Per	If you do not have it
Chromebook/ Laptop/PC		student	
Canva account (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

STEP BY STEP

3 min Start Devices with a browser; a Canva account per student.

Have a spare finished design for anyone whose work did not save.

5 min What layering means

Stack three sheets of paper on the visualiser if you have one. It explains layers faster than words do.

12 min Hands-on: Text over your image

Position then Backward is the step they will not find on their own. Demonstrate it once on the board.

8 min Hands-on: Export it properly

Same habit as the audio and video lessons: check the exported file, not the editor.

10 min Your Turn: the honest edit

The crop is usually the honest answer to the second question: leaving something out is the easiest way to mislead without faking anything. Steer towards it if the room is stuck.