

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, 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.
- 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, so spend only a couple of minutes on step 2 and use the stacked sheets of paper rather than talking through layers, or the making time gets eaten. For each of the three practical 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. 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.
- Devices with a browser; a Canva account per student.

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