

LESSON 6

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

40 minutes

Make It Yourself

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

- Edit an image using cropping, resizing, filters and layers, and explain what each edit changes

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.

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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	content	Your Turn: the Honest Edit
2 min	summary	What You Covered

TEACHING MOVES

- 1. Start. Get everyone into their saved design first. Hand the spare to anyone who lost theirs so nobody stalls, then flag that today ends on a judgement about their own edits.
- 2. What Layering Means. Stack three sheets of paper on the visualiser and reorder them. Show that deleting the middle sheet leaves the others untouched, and stress nothing is permanent until export.
- 3. Hands-on: Text Over Your Image. Demonstrate Position then Backward once on the board. This is the exact step students will not find alone, so show the menu path clearly before they try.
- 4. Hands-on: Export It Properly. Have students open the exported file itself, not the editor, to confirm it looks right. Point out PNG keeps transparency, JPG suits photos online.
- 5. Your Turn: the Honest Edit. If the room struggles to name a misleading edit, steer them to the crop: leaving something out misleads without faking anything. Keep this spoken, not written up.
- 6. What You Covered. Close by naming that the honesty question returns when they meet manipulated media later, so today's self-audit is practice for judging others' work.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Students think exporting is the same as saving in Canva, or that saving in the editor produces a usable file. Have them open the actual exported PNG or JPG from wherever it downloaded. Seeing the separate file makes the distinction concrete.
- Students assume only fakery misleads, so an unedited crop or filter must be fine. Walk through a crop that removes context. Show that leaving something out can misrepresent a scene without adding anything false.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Emerging: Give the student the spare finished design so they can practise layering and export without waiting on lost work. Do the Position then Backward step alongside them once so they own the sequence.
- Developing: Ask them to name aloud which layer holds what before they reorder, so the stacking logic is deliberate rather than trial and error.
- Proficient: Once exported, have them articulate both a fair edit and a misleading one and defend each to a partner. Challenge them to design a version of their image that would clearly mislead, then explain what they changed.