

**GRAY SCALE– PART 2: DEVELOPING COMPOSITIONS IN GRAY & WORKING WITH TYPE:  
PORTRAIT IN SHADES/GRAYS**

Composition - just what is a composition?

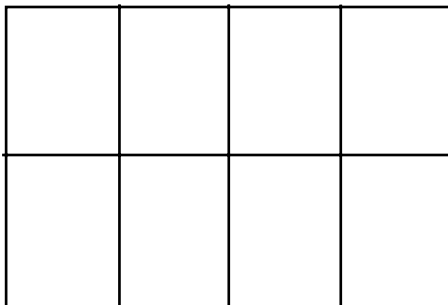
Up to now this class has looked at and worked with selected elements of design, but not concentrated on creating a composition. What various techniques can be used to aid in the look/feel of Unity on a page? What about some sort of variety? How do you “capture” your viewer’s attention and move it around the page? It is time to move from working with singled out techniques to where you combine various ones together in a more complex fashion. This project will combine several design elements while working with type, layout and a basic grid system.

The Parts Needed: You will need a page of 8" x 11", a photograph of yourself , friend or pet and a written paragraph about the photo. By paragraph, 3-4 lines is enough.

1. The initial photo can be either B & W or color, but you will be using it as B & W. The imageable area to be used, must be readable, although you may need to still enlarge it. It will need to take up the entire space of at least two grid blocks, but no larger than four blocks, once your page has been divided into a grid system. (Aprox. 5.33 x 3.66 - 5.33 x 7.33). Note: the smaller the actual image you are working with, the more difficult this project will be.

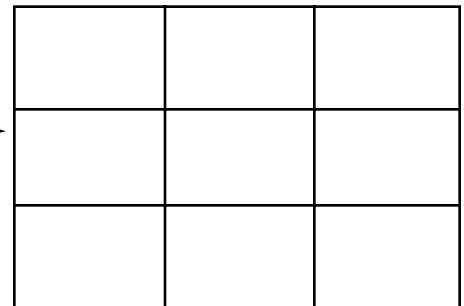
2. Write a paragraph that relates to the photograph. Spell check, print and bring to class.

3. Begin with dividing your page into either a 3 x 3 grid or a 2 x 4 grid. The finished page size is to be: 8" x 11". If you divide your page into thirds both vertically and horizontally. It will look something like this: →



If you divide it into the 2 x 4 grid it will look something like this:

← You may work either vertically or horizontally, but the page will still be divided the same.



4. If you plan to use cut & paste type collect numerous examples of letters that can be used to represent various shades of gray in your text.

Press type may be found in grays in addition to black, but I am not sure where. Your third option for type, is text that you create yourself with your tech pens. Any of these kinds of type is acceptable. You may use one kind of type or combine - whatever may work best for your composition.

Beginning the Project:

Convert photo to grayscale *if color* and enlarge needed area to required size. Use a xerox machine for this. In class work on developing area into 4-5 value levels, considering black and white as two of them. You need to work with creating the best possible shapes of rendering of your image. Tracing paper over the image will help you with this. As you can see from the example on page 2, your photo needs to be converted to 4+ (four) levels of value-black, med gray, light gray & white. You will eventually cut these shapes out from your papers.

6. Purchase your papers, if you need more: white, black & 2 shades of gray. Purchase press-type (if you wish) from an office supply store, tracing paper and any other supplies that you may need.

Steps in Your Organization:

Work with the grid divisions on your page. Let them help you in the placement of your image and text. Also let the actual photograph help in your layout ideas. Is there a particularly strong line that moves across the image? Can you mimic that line for placement of your text? Select a page orientation that best works with the actual photo or section of you are using. **DO NOT** use the center as your Focal Point!!! You might find however that you need to combine two or more areas together or that you might need to further break down an area into additional subdivisions. *Note:—You can not begin this phase until you have both an image and your text.*

Preliminary sketches/comps: Do two or three different ideas of layout and text location, done actual size, in pencil on sketch paper. Name on each. We should be able to discuss them in class. Placement of photo can be nothing more than a sketch of the image. Remember, these are your first ideas, do not belabor at them.

Rough Draft: In class we will determine which of your sketch ideas would be the best to fully develop. It will be this one idea that you then need to develop more fully. Be sure you are working with an accurate size page. Once you have finalized the placement of your elements, then begin working on the value change for your face if you have not yet done so.

Final Piece: On Bristol Board, develop your final piece. In the end, the overall tone of the type should also take on the four/five value levels that the image has developed into. The image will be in cut solid paper and the text in various levels of type. Your type can be all found or a combination of found and press. Mixing size and kinds of fonts in your text will add to the visual aspect of your piece. Cover completed piece with tracing paper.

**Both your grade sheet and your stamp must appear on the back of the piece.**

Due by Friday, December 6th, outside my office door. Lean against door. Do not place in black bin- I put projects already graded in there, so I will not get it if you put it there.

