



Notes to the Teacher: Identity Collage Unit.

Success in this project requires a lot of experimentation and process. A successful composition is not rationally planned. It emerges from experimentation and “playing around.” In other words, rational thinking must be used at times, but the intuitive intelligence is far more important.

It is a good idea for students to have many copies of the same photos they are using so that they can experiment on several compositions using the same ideas.

Having a collection of papers with different patterns and functions, such as musical scores, maps, gift paper, certificates and even old homework assignments, could be used in a identity collage.

Many students used printmaking ink, rolled on lightly with a brayer, to obscure some parts of the composition without illuminating them completely. Students can stencil, paint, and brayer over areas, use calligraphy and magazine images. All sorts of papers can be gathered. It helps if there are many choices.

As you can see from the examples of student work, I have taught this unit many times and the parameters of the assignment changes with the nature of the group.