

**Positive and Negative Symbol Lesson**, example available on the web



[http://schools.lwsd.org/lwhs/users/staff/wyatt/Photoshop/Lessons/Lesson07/Pos\\_neg\\_symbols.htm](http://schools.lwsd.org/lwhs/users/staff/wyatt/Photoshop/Lessons/Lesson07/Pos_neg_symbols.htm)

The goal is to work to develop a positive and negative symbol of a readily recognizable subject: I worked with a crow, using a background which complemented the image.

1. The first thing to do is to open Photoshop and make a new .psd file and save it to the lesson 7 folder.
  - Name it **#\_In\_positive\_negative**
  - Dimensions: 10 inches by 16 inches (we will be printing this image)
  - Mode: RGB
  - Resolution: 150
  
2. Go to google and do an advanced image search:
  - Click on the advanced image search link to the right of the search box.
  - Size: Large
  - Filetypes: JPG files
  - Coloration: Any color

You are limited to school appropriate subject matter and the image must be large enough, and of good quality to fill at least ½ of the image format and be reproducible as an alpha channel. The final image will not contain this web image.

3. Making the Positive Image:
  - Make sure you have already created the Photoshop file before you copy (ctrl + C) and paste (ctrl + V) the image into your Photoshop file.
  - The new image will appear as its own layer.

- Transform the image and arrange it so that it takes up approximately ½ of the format as shown in the example.
  - Make an initial magic wand selection before pressing the letter Q to go into Quick Mask mode to finish the selection of the image without a background.
  - Use a hard edge brush – white to add to the selection and black to subtract
  - Go back to standard mode, press Q, to see the finished selection.
  - Once the selection is perfected save the selection as an alpha channel in the channel panel.
  - Fill this selection with black in your main image
4. Making the Negative Image:
- Remember, in order to move a selection, you have need to have the marquee tool active.
  - To get the reverse image you might begin with a rectangle selection, fill it with black and then load the object channel and hit delete.
5. Now all that remains is to find a background which complements and brings meaning the subject.
- There is a stock images folder in the Photoshop Images folder, these are images purchased by our class and are royalty free.
  - If you cannot find an image that works in this folder then you will have to find a high resolution royalty free image site. You must be able to prove the image used is available to the public so save the url address on its own layer for me to verify.
6. The final touch is to add a discrete and clearly legible name layer, your name should appear in the lower right hand corner.
- You have today, Tuesday and Wednesday to complete this file.
  - Your \$2.00 receipts for printing are due on Monday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, along with 2 files: .psd and .jpg file will also be due on this date.
  - DO NOT TURN IN WORK UNTIL THE 28<sup>th</sup>.