

COMPOSITION

NAME _____ PER. _____

The art of organizing elements of artwork into a harmonious and pleasing whole.
The consideration of how objects are placed in a design or work of art.

Tips for creating good composition:

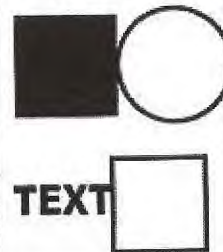
1. Overlap

Place objects slightly over one another. This will get the eye to move from one element to another. Objects should not be touching each other by edges ("no kissing allowed!"). Avoid isolation. Build a relationship between objects.

Good overlapping



Avoid kissing



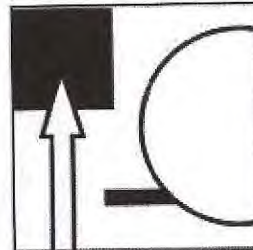
Avoid isolation



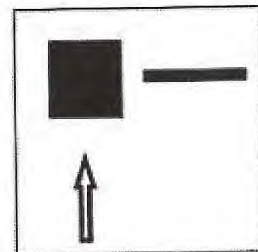
2. Crop

Consider having objects go off the edge of the page. This gets the viewer in and out of the picture. Avoid floating objects within the edges of the page.

Have object go off the page



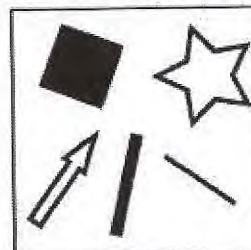
Avoid floating objects



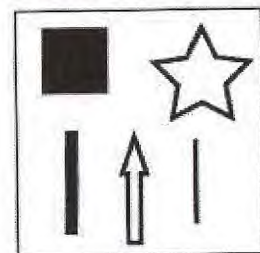
3. Rotate:

Consider placing objects at an angle. Things that are tilted create a more dynamic composition. Artwork with objects that are perfectly lined up with the edge can be boring.

Tilt objects



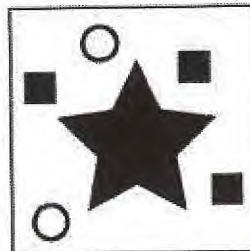
Avoid all objects upright



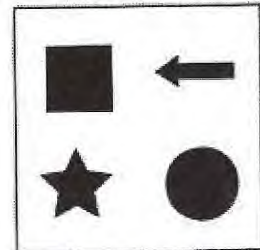
4. Focal Point

Create an area of importance. Give the viewer something to focus on. One way to achieve this is through size variation. Try not to have all elements the same size. Another way to create focus is through color dominance.

Use size & color variation



Avoid all objects the same size



5. Off-Centering

Avoid placing objects directly in the center of the page. Think about placing objects slightly to one side. This will create a more interesting composition. Try to keep elements balanced as you do this. For example, one large object could be balanced by 3 smaller ones. (Note: this does not mean that a symmetrical design cannot be successful.)

Off-center objects for interest



Centered can be boring

