

Slicing the Puzzle

Set-up: Use a 6" square of black paper and an 8.5" x 11" piece of white Drawing Paper or Bristol to make the puzzle. Use 14" x 17" Bristol paper to mount your puzzle once finished.

Problem: Cut up the black square into interesting, non-objective shapes of your choosing. Use ALL shapes, even the scraps, to arrange them into an interesting composition on the white groundsheet. Glue them in place as a completed "puzzle". Mount the puzzle onto a background frame by gluing it onto a full sheet of Bristol.

Consider cutting the black into geometric shapes such as squares, rectangles, and circles, or take a more free-form approach and make curvilinear, organic, and irregular shapes. Strive to achieve unity by including some repetition of shapes and changes in scale. Slight overlapping of shapes is fine, but don't hide shapes behind others. Play with different arrangements, then glue them in place on the page. Center the puzzle over the Bristol paper and attach it with Mod Podge or Sobo glue. Decide on a preferred portrait or landscape view of your work and print your name in the lower right hand corner of the project board. Tape the assignment directions to the backside.

Objectives:

- * To create an interesting, non-objective composition that achieves balance and unity.
- * To explore the use of negative space as a supporting element of design.

Strategy: Consider these questions.

- * What is the effect of having shapes touch the edge of the picture plane?
- * How do shapes in the corners help or hurt the design?
- * How might the negative space (the white) play a role?
- * What is the relationship between the proximity of shapes and a visual tension or emphasis?
- * Does the arrangement achieve balance and unity?



Student work with an A grade. Shows unity with repetition of shapes and makes use of negative space to help support the design.



Student work with a C grade. Fails to show non-objective shapes.