How to make a Collage

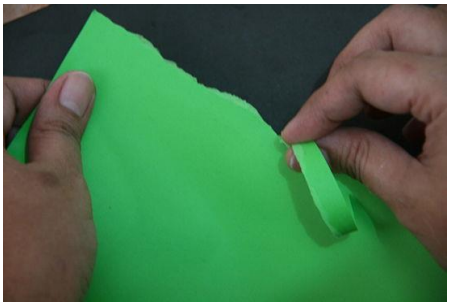
1. Collect the materials needed for making a paper collage

Here are some possible materials:



- Use construction paper, copy paper, paper bags, tissue paper, marbled paper, handmade paper, etc. The paper can be either soft or hard, or a mixture of both.
- Use cut-outs from magazines or newsprint. Fashion and news magazines can feature several collage-worthy images. Newsprint can add a fun texture to a collage, as well; just be aware that dyes may run sometimes.
- Make use of different foils or tapes. Use the aluminium foil from the kitchen, or colour masking or duct tape.
- Use photographs. Cutting images from old photographs can lend your collage a retro feel. Just make sure you're not cutting up the only copy you have of a photo that you might need later.

2. Fold, cut or tear the paper into different shapes



- You can use scissors or a craft knife to make different shapes. Alternatively, you can make rough tears on the ends of the paper pieces for more texture or a less controlled look.
- Cut out a whole picture, an identifiable part, or just enough to evoke texture, colour or feeling.
- To make a word, cut out letters from different sources and fonts.

3. Develop a theme.



- You might have been assigned a theme, or maybe you came up with one as you collected materials. Either way, build your collage around a central idea or image.

3. **Consider adding embellishments**.

While not essential, embellishments can take the collage up a notch by adding depth, interest and sparkle. Use ribbons, beads, string, feathers or fabric in the paper collage. Find these items around the house, or purchase them at a craft store.



1. 5

4. **Figure out what you're going to glue the collage onto**.

You can use a piece of paper, a large piece of card stock or part of a cardboard box. Whatever you choose, make sure it's strong enough to handle several more layers of weight and that it will be easy to display.



6. **Assemble the pieces before you glue them**.

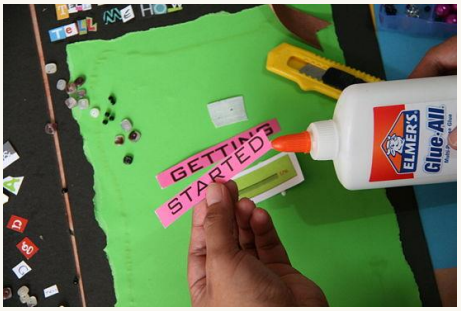
Although optional, it's recommended that you try. Once you have everything you want to put on your collage, spread it to design the collage before proceeding. Lay it out on a large surface like a table or floor. Build the items in layers, starting with the background and moving forward. This should give you a good idea of what your end product will look like before you commit to any gluing. If you want to remember it exactly, take a picture of your test run. Ideas for collage designs include:



- A landscape or a seascape
- A person's image, such as a soca star or someone who wears highly identifiable clothes or head wear, such as a tiara
- Newspaper people - use cut- outs from an old newspapers to make images of people and then design them into the collage
- Animals; for example, use small paper pieces or stamps to form a shape of an animal such as a cat, crocodile or bee. Draw the shape on the paper first and fill in the space by gluing the paper pieces inside the lines
- A mosaic ; the mosaic can follow a shape or it can simply be a pattern or a jumble
- The alphabet; cut letters out of the paper and either make the alphabet or words on the collage
- Patterns using only a single shape, such as circles, squares, etc.; repeated patterns are also very effective as a collage.

7. **Glue the collage**.

Starting with the background and working forward, glue the pieces of the collage onto the base. Use regular white glue or a glue stick and work with precision.



- Try to arrange the collage around one central piece that you think is striking or interesting.
- Remember that not every piece has to be glued flat. Try crumpling or folding to achieve a different texture.

8. **Let the collage dry**.

Given that the collage might contain several layers of glue, allow it ample time to dry.



- For a small collage, an hour or so should be sufficient.
- For a larger piece, you might want to let it sit overnight.