

Art

Genre

How-to Articles provide directions on how to do or make something.

Text Feature

Directions are the steps you follow in order to do or make something.

Content Vocabulary

images **background**

MAKING A COLLAGE

by Claire Hartfield

Choosing a Story or Theme

To begin your project, pick a story or theme for your collage. Do you want to tell about something that really happened? Or would you rather make up a story? Is there a theme that would make a fun collage—things that make you laugh, things you do at bedtime, a list of wishes, favorite songs? To get ideas, think of people, places, or memories that mean a lot to you.

Then think about **images** you can use in your collage to illustrate what you want to say. What do you want in the picture? People? Animals? What are they doing? Where are they? What do they see, hear, smell, taste, and feel?

Materials You Will Need

- ★ A board or thick piece of paper
- ★ Glue or paste
- ★ Paints, colored markers, or crayons
- ★ Anything that can be glued or pasted on your collage



reating Your Collage

Start by deciding whether or not it's important to have the images you'll be using in any particular order. If it is, you can lay them out to get an idea of how they will look together.

Next, paint or color the **background** on your paper or board. Use colors you want to peek through in the finished picture.

Then begin to create your story or theme by cutting and pasting your objects onto the background.

Words such as *Start*, *Next*, and *Then* show the steps to follow.

Connect and Compare

1. When making a collage, what do you do before you paint or color the background? What do you do after you paint the background? **Reading Directions**
2. What would happen if you pasted down your materials before you painted the background? **Synthesize**
3. In *Me and Uncle Romie*, James made a collage. What did he do that was similar to the directions in this article? What did he do differently? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Art Activity

Research artists who make collages. Create your own piece of art in the style of one of them.



Find out more about collages at www.macmillanmh.com

Write a Speech

Writer's Craft

Mood

Writers often set the **mood** in a speech by expressing their opinions. They use precise words to reinforce the mood.



I admire my older sister, Blanca. I used precise words to introduce her to my class.

I included opinions in my speech to reinforce the mood.

My Sister, the Artist

by Jillian N.

My sister, Blanca, is here today to tell you about drawing. She is the best artist in her high school. She has been painting and drawing since she was only six. Her first picture was of her dog Champ.

She always takes a drawing pad with her when she goes out. When she sees an interesting person, animal, or flower, she quickly sketches it. Then she chooses her favorite sketches and turns them into finished art.

She taught me everything I know about drawing. She is the most incredible teacher, and I hope you can learn a lot!

Your Turn

Think of a person you admire. It could be someone famous, someone you have read about, or someone you know, such as a teacher or relative. Pretend you are going to give a speech that introduces this person to an audience. Include your opinions about this person. Back up your opinions with facts. Then use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



**Amelia Earhart in her
airplane cockpit**

Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I choose a person others will also find interesting?
- Organization:** Did I start with a strong opening statement? Did I go on to support that statement?
- Voice:** Did I clearly express my opinion of this person?
- Word Choice:** Did I choose precise words to describe this person and reinforce the **mood**?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I use a variety of sentence types and sentence lengths?
- Conventions:** Did I use commas to set off people's names? Did I check my spelling?