

Collage 2008 Instructions- please follow carefully!

NOTE: We have made some significant changes to our rules, which will be in **bold type** and *italicized* for you to notice!

*We are not going to accept collages for judging which do not adhere to these instructions, so please read carefully! If you have any questions, please contact us at www.collage2000.com or **HYPERLINK "mailto:collageproject@hideawaypizza.com" collageproject@hideawaypizza.com.***

Materials List

One sheet ($\frac{1}{2}$ " **thick plywood, not $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick as in the past. Do NOT use particle board MDF or HDF board either, just $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood!**) cut to 3' x 5'. Premium grade, with one smooth side.

Primer and paint to cover approx. 60 square feet (2 coats on both sides).

Collage glue. We recommend "Mod Podge"-white glue that dries clear and can be used to both attach and protect images. Get enough for 100 square feet (gluing plus at least 2-3 cover coats).

Exterior grade satin polyurethane with UV protection, for approximately 100 square feet (2-4 coats on both sides). **Do not use spray-on coatings or the thick, heavy gloss that has to be heated to dry.**

Roller for removing bubbles.

3 x 5" index cards, scissors, sand paper, paintbrushes.

Specifications & Details:

3-D materials can extend no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ **inch** above the board surface. All 3-D materials must be very durable and very securely attached. **NO ceramic or fragile materials are to be used in the three dimensional materials, as these break off when transporting the collages.**

Leave a minimum 3" border on the front with **no part of the collage concept other than background paint painted in it, glued to it or attached to it in any way.** This painted border will provide a visual frame for the work, and a space for attaching standard display brackets. Do not use any additional framing or border materials. (See illustration below)

One 3" x 5" "Title" card (white or colored) attached to the front bottom center (on the 3" border). On the top half of this card neatly write the Title (if any) and Group or individual(s) name(s) and community in which you live. Glue and seal this card just like the rest of the board. (See illustration)

One 3" x 5" Identification card attached permanently to the back top right corner, 2" from the edge. This card should show complete contact information: name(s), addresses, and phone #s. Glue and seal this card just like the rest of the board. (See illustration)

PLEASE NOTE: Essays will no longer be attached in the upper right-hand corner of the collage as in the illustration. This was the first year only. Incorporate the right-hand corner into your artwork, as it will not be covered by your essay.

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Step 1: Concept and Plan

The theme for 2008 collage is ***Field, Forest and Stream: Oklahomans and the Outdoors.***

Here's the information you'll need to get started, but first, take some time and look at past year collage entries on our website. Then read below for ways to impart a higher order to your work for more artistic results.

Many small images may be combined to form a larger image that only appears when seen from a distance. A road can run through your collage taking the viewer on a journey through your town, through time, and/or through different cultures. Black and white images can be used to contrast with color images. Use images of the same color in big areas to represent the sky, earth, or changing seasons.

If your collage is a group project, it will help if every person has his or her own responsibility for an area on the board, or another task to support the project. Someone has to get the materials, paint, write, etc. Start with a discussion of the possibilities, have a sign-up list for the tasks, then do a sketch. Ultimately the nature of your collage will depend on what materials you have to work with, and the amount of time you take. Simple designs using big images can be done in a day or two. Complex designs with small images can take weeks or months.

A good collage is rich in color, texture, intricacy, and meaning. Every time you look at a good collage, you will see more than you did before.

Step 2: Image Sources

What's Grandma saving those National Geographic magazines for anyway? Magazines are the richest single source of images, but always ask for permission before using any materials that you don't own.

Other good sources are scrapbooks, yearbooks, photo albums, posters, and maps. If the original image is rare, valuable, or delicate, use a photocopy, or you can scan the image and print it out. This will also allow you to re-size the image. Newspaper images bleed through when they get damp with glue, and can tear easily. An option is to apply one or two coats of white paint to the backside of thin papers before gluing.

Step 3: Collecting and Preparing Images

If you're going through a big stack of magazines cut the whole page out first. Then carefully trim the main image(s) you want to feature. The craftsmanship of a good collage shows in how few square corners one sees, other than those that are actually part of the images. Sort your images by color, subject, and size, keeping them organized in folders or a box.

Step 4: Selecting Your Work Space

Find a convenient, large, safe, clean, and comfortable space where you may work on your collage at any hour of the day or night, undisturbed, for several months, for free, preferably next to a pastry and coffee shop. Good luck!

Step 5: The Plywood

Premium ½" *plywood* (retail \$30-\$40 for a 4' x 8' sheet) will provide a solid foundation for your work. ***Do not use thinner or thicker or lower grades of plywood and DO NOT use particleboard.*** The extra 3 x 4' and 1' x 5' pieces can be used for a small "test" collages, or to make a shelf or table. Most suppliers will cut the board for you. Sand the edges so they are not sharp or full of splinters. ***The more you smooth these over, the less paint they will absorb and the better they will seal against moisture.***

Step 6: Prime and Paint

Prime and paint the entire board (both sides and ***all four*** edges) with 2 coats of quality paint. Black or other dark colors work well.

Step 7: Composition

Plan your board to be viewed 3' high by 5' wide! ***Absolutely NO*** vertical boards will be accepted in 2008.

If you want a special background color for large areas (like the sky), paint it in. Make a sketch of your design concept on the board before beginning. Put down the big images first, and work from the center to the edges. Leave a 3-inch painted border around the collage. Also note that 2 I.D. cards must be attached to the board in specific positions (see illustration).

Step 8: Gluing

You can build your collage with the board leaning against a wall. It's easiest to work flat on a floor so that pictures can be laid out for a preview before they're pasted. Otherwise, carefully use tape (like masking tape) in the preview phase.

Apply a moderate amount of glue evenly to the board where the image is to be placed. Then spread glue on the back of the image itself. This way there are no gaps without glue. Position the paper on the board and carefully press or roll out the extra glue and air bubbles. Protect finished areas with extra topcoats of clear-drying glue. Make sure all the edges are glued down!

Step 9: Sealing for Protection

These collages will be displayed outdoors and exposed to rain, sunshine, and repeated handling. First apply 2-4 coats of clear-drying glue, letting each coat dry before the next application. Then apply 2-5 coats of non-glossy exterior grade polyurethane for weatherproofing. Apply extra coats on the board edges, and allow plenty of drying time between each coats. Verithane dries faster and is less toxic, but will require more coatings. **REMEMBER - don't use the spray on type or the thick pour on gel.**

All collages must have completely dry polyurethane when turned in for judging. The last polyurethane coating must have been applied no later than 2 days earlier and the last verithane coating no less than one day earlier.

Step 10: Sponsorship

You may be able to get local businesses to sponsor your collage with contributions of cash, workspace, photocopies, materials and services. Ask them for support. Offer to use their photos in the collage.

Step 11: Group Participation

This can be a great group project with different people contributing time, materials, images, space, or milk and cookies. There will probably be just a few people who really want to be hands-on. If a number of people want to help, you may want to do two or three boards so that everyone has the space they want.

Step 12: Media Coverage

Let your local media people know about your collage, and why it's important to your class, club, or community. We will have a template of a press release you can fill in to give your local paper and tv stations. It will help tremendously if someone in your group takes pictures, and writes up a story about the collage project. This can be a great project in itself for a journalism or history student.

Step 13: Essays

This essay is very helpful for the judges to understand your collage and what you intended to convey. Write an essay describing the collage and its meaning and how various items represent what you intend to convey.

Remember, however, that your collage needs to tell a story by itself, that is one of the hallmarks of a successful collage. Do not count on your essay to do this for you, as most people viewing these do not have access to them. The judges this year will be judging these separately.

They will be judging these on proper grammar, spelling, style, composition, relevance to the annual theme and readability. The essay should fit on the front and back of one 8 1/2" x 11" page sheet of white paper, and should be single spaced, using Helvetica or Arial 14-point font. This will probably be fewer than 800 words. ***Do NOT have the essay take up more than one page, front and back, nor use smaller type to make it fit.***

Print 8 copies (front and back) on white paper. Please include identification information at the end of the essay with name of entrant and school, group or community.

Step 14: Exhibitions

To gather collages from around the state, artists will be asked to deliver their collages to Tulsa and Oklahoma City on *March 1st and 2nd, respectively. Absolutely NO late entries will be accepted in 2008!* A State Exhibition will follow at the Oklahoma History Center and the State Capitol.

Step 15: Awards- \$10,000 in Cash Prizes!

Everyone who participates in Collage 2008 will be a winner. For every collage entered, Hideaway Pizza will award \$50 in Pizza Bucks so you or your team can celebrate their collage with a pizza party!

Collages will compete at the State Exhibition in three separate age categories: Elementary School (K-8th grade), High School (9-12), and Open (college age and older, and all other groups and individuals). In each age category the top two collages will receive cash awards as follows:

1st Place \$1,000

2nd Place \$750.

A "Grand Champion" will receive \$2,000!

An additional \$2,250 will be awarded for Honorable Mentions at the discretion of the judges according to the number of entries in each category and the merit of the art and essays.

Judging: An all-star panel of judges including artists, historians, teachers, and community leaders will be charged with the responsibility of selecting the best collages in each age group. Judging criteria will include:

Depiction of the annual theme,

Artistic quality,

Historic quality,

Essay quality,

Creativity,

Craftsmanship,

Community or group effort.

All decisions of the judges are final.

Legal Stuff

All artists will be required to sign a contractual waiver when their collages are submitted for competition giving the sponsors and representatives of Collage 2008 complete control of the collages and essays. This legal document will release the sponsors from liability for any and all damages, theft, or wear-and-tear; and give them complete and unrestricted rights for commercial use of the art, writings, or reproductions thereof.

All collages become the property of the sponsors for long-term display.

Win Money, Have Fun, Make History!