



by Jenifer Juris

## Secrets of Terrific Type

### Lesson 04-03: Justification Homework—Photoshop Elements

As promised, for our homework on Justification, we are going to create a grid style photo card where we will use justified type to make the grid look its best.

Before we get into the instructions, let's quickly go over why justified type will be the best choice for this project.

Here is a preview of the photo grid I'm making without the type.



Here I've added type but instead of using justified type, I've used Center Alignment. It doesn't look bad, but, it could look better!



When I change the text from Center Alignment to Justify All, this really makes the lines of the photo grid look GOOD! There's zero trapped space and because of that, the type ends up making the grid look so much better.



So now that you see why we're using Justified type, let's go to PSE and learn how to make this cute photo grid.

### Step One: Prepare the Workspace

I've already created a new document that is 7 inches wide by 5 inches high at 300ppi with a white background.

Press the Letter D to reset the Color Chips.

In the Menu Bar, choose View > Rulers to make sure your Rulers are showing.

Also in the Menu Bar, choose View > Snap To and make sure both Guides and Layers is checked.

### Step Two: Add Shape

Get the Rectangle Shape tool. In the Tool Options, set the Style to None and set the Geometry Options to Fixed Size. Enter 1.6 inches for the width and the height and click on the Create a New Shape Layer icon.

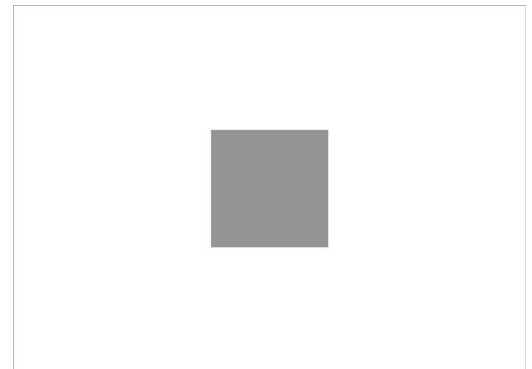
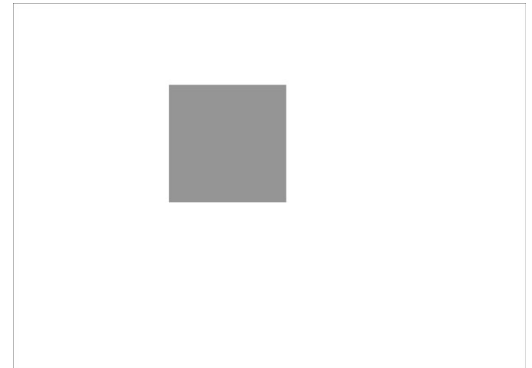
Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and chose Hex #: 959595. Click OK.

On the document, click and drag slightly to create the shape and then let go.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify option.

In the Layers panel, Shift click on the background layer so that both layers are active.

Get the Move tool. In the Tool Options click on the Align Vertical Centers icon and Align Horizontal Centers icon to place our square directly in the middle of the document.

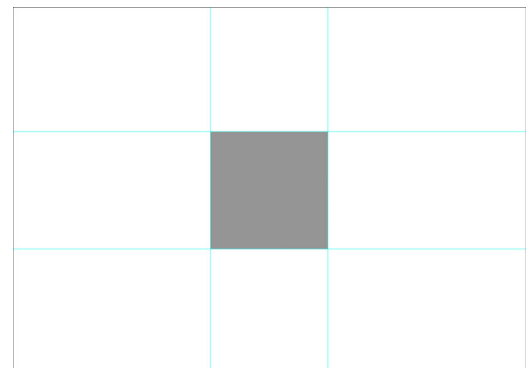


### Step Three: Add Guides

In the Layers panel, click on the shape layer so it's the only active layer.

Click and drag a guide from the left ruler so that you end up having guides on both the left and right sides of the square.

Do the same thing from the top ruler so that you have guides on both the top and bottom of the square.



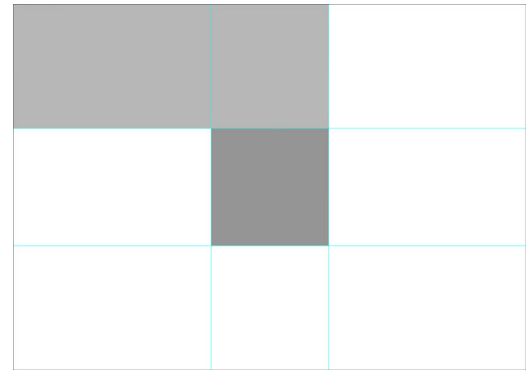
## Step Four: Add Grid Pieces

Click on the Foreground Color chip to open the Color Picker and choose Hex #: b7b7b7. Click OK.

Get the Rectangle Shape tool. In the Tool Options, change the Geometry Options to Unconstrained. Leave all the other settings the same.

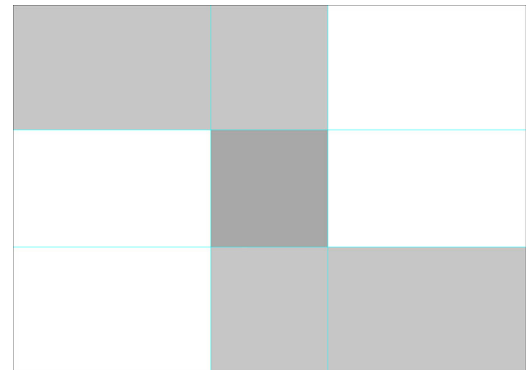
Outside of the document, click and drag a rectangle from the top left corner to the first horizontal guide and the second vertical guide.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.



Outside of the document, click and drag a rectangle from the bottom right corner to the second horizontal guide and the first vertical guide.

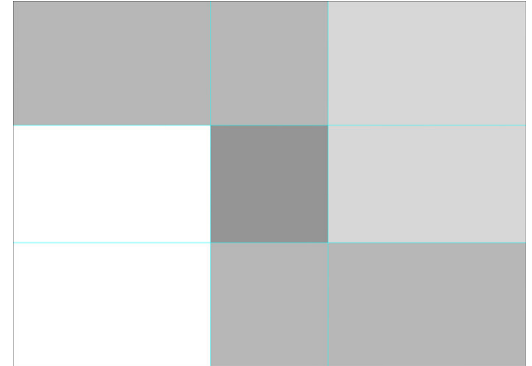
In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.



Click on the Foreground Color Chip to open the Color Picker and choose Hex #: d7d7d7. Click OK.

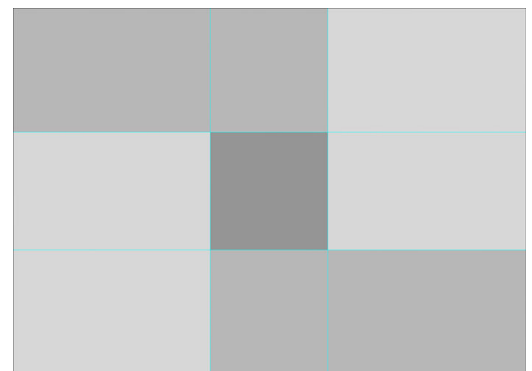
From outside the bounds of the document, click and drag from the top right corner to the second vertical guide and the second horizontal guide.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.



From outside the bounds of the document, click and drag from the bottom left corner to the first horizontal guide and the first vertical guide.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.



## Step Five: Add Photos

For a small photo grid like this, I recommend using photos that go together. Either photos from the same photo shoot, photos from the same day or event, or photos of all flowers, etc.

For me, I'm using photos I took of bluebirds in my yard. If you'd like to use the same photos I have used, they are available for you in the downloads for this lesson.

So, open a photo that you wish to use. I'm using Bluebird Photo 1 first.

Get the Move tool.

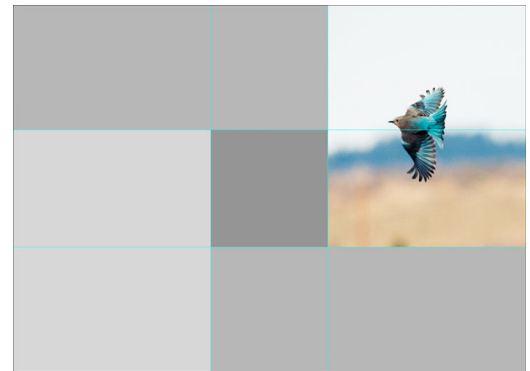
While holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto your document.

I already know that I'm going to use this photo for one of the taller rectangle pieces. So, in the Layers panel, make sure the photo layer is above the rectangle where you wish to place the photo in the grid. For this photo, I want to place it in the top right rectangle so that the bird appears to be pointing towards the center of the grid.

In the Menu Bar choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform Options. At this point, you might need to press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize your document so you can see the transform handles.

Click and drag from a corner handle to resize the photo smaller until it fits within the size of the clipping mask. Click the checkmark to commit.



At this point, you may need to resize your document back to a larger size so press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) until your document size is to your liking.

In the Layers panel, click on the other tall rectangle, the bottom left one, to activate it. Again, I'm using the bottom left rectangle for this photo so that my bird appears to be looking in towards the grid.

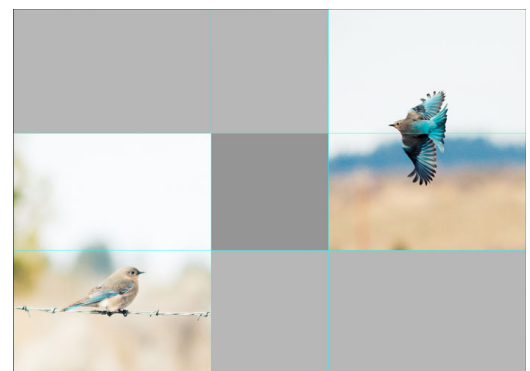
Open Bluebird Photo 2.

While holding down the Shift key, click and drag the photo onto your grid document.

In the Menu Bar, choose Layer > Create Clipping Mask.

If needed, press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options. And, if you need to, press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize the document so you can see the transform handles.

Click and drag from a corner handle until the photo is sized to your liking. Click the checkmark to commit.



Then, if needed, Press Ctrl + (Mac: Cmd +) to resize the document larger.

Repeat these steps for the other two photos.

## Step Six: Add Grid Lines

In the Layers panel, click on the top most layer to activate it.

Click on the Create a New Layer icon.

Press Ctrl A (Mac: Cmd A) to get a selection around the document edge.

Press the Letter D to reset the Color Chips.

In the Menu Bar, choose Edit > Stroke (Outline) Selection.

In the dialog box, set the Stroke Width to 20 px, leave the color black. Set the Location to Inside and set the Blending Mode to Normal with an Opacity of 100%. Uncheck Preserve Transparency. Click OK.

Press Ctrl D (Mac: Cmd D) to deselect.

Name the stroke layer Document Edge Stroke.

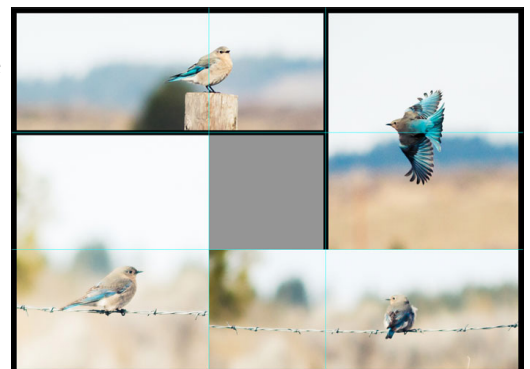
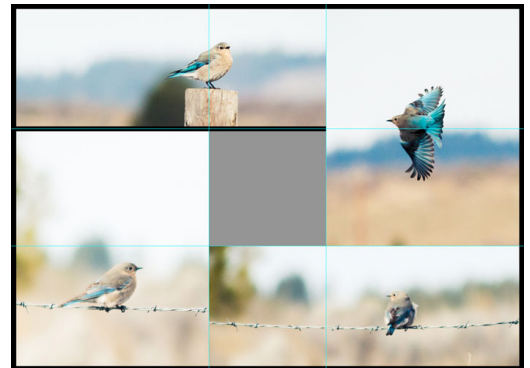
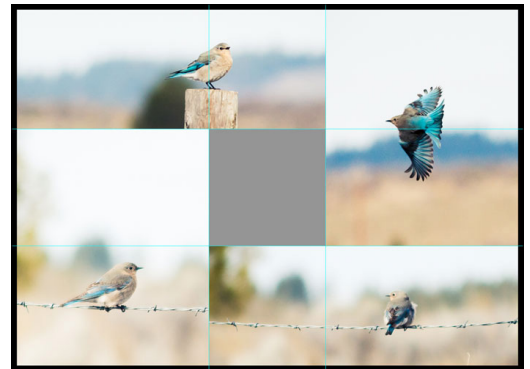
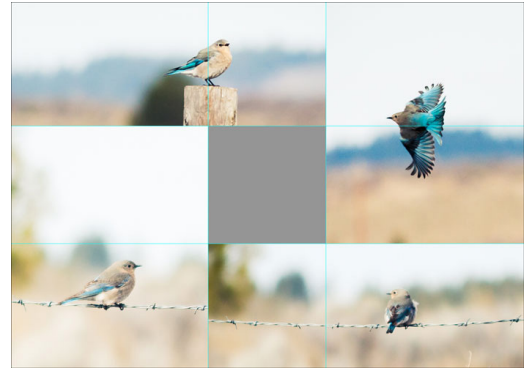
Get the Line tool. It's nestled with the other Shape tools. Set the Width to 20 px, the Style to None and set the Arrow head options to No Arrow Head. Click on the Create a New Shape Layer icon.

On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag a line that is centered along the first horizontal guide that starts outside the left edge and comes up to the left edge of the top right photo.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.

On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag a line that is centered along the second vertical guide that starts outside the top edge and comes down to the top edge of the bottom right photo.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.



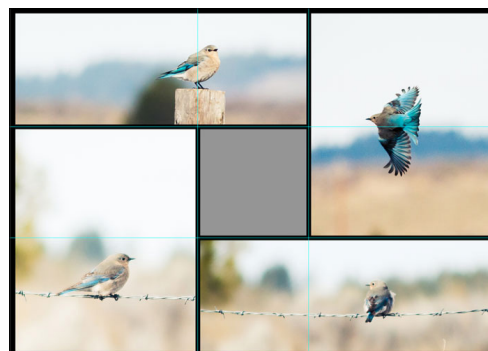
On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag a line that is centered along the second horizontal guide that starts outside of the right edge and comes to the right edge of the bottom left photo.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.



On the document, while holding down the Shift key, click and drag a line that is centered along the first vertical guide that starts outside the bottom edge of the document and comes to the bottom edge of the top left photo.

In the Tool Options, click on the Simplify icon.



In the Menu Bar, choose View > Guides to hide the Guides for now by unchecking them.

In the Layers panel, Shift click on the Document Edge Stroke layer so that all of the black stroke layers are active.

Press Ctrl E (Mac: Cmd E) to merge the layers together.

## Step Seven: Add Type

In the Layers panel, scroll down to bottom shape layer, the square we first started with, and drag it to the trash.

Open the Justify All Template that came in the downloads for this Lesson.

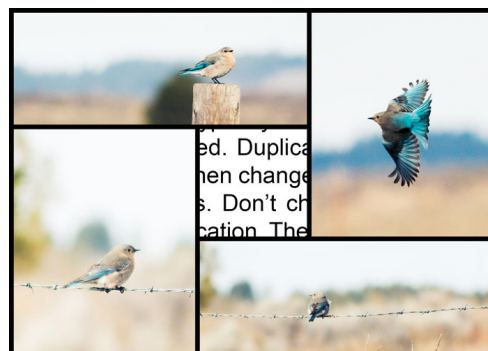
In the Layers panel, Right click (Mac: Ctrl click) on the type layer and choose Duplicate Layer.

In the dialog box, set the document to your photo grid document and then click OK.

Go back to your Photo Grid document.

Get the Move tool.

On the document, click and drag the type layer until you can see the text in the middle square.





On the document, double click on the text in the middle square to get the text box active with all of the type selected.

In the Tool Options, set the Font to Lumberjack Regular, the size to 7.7. Click to open the Type tool Color Picker and use Hex #: b49d88. Don't click the checkmark just yet.

Now we need to use the Transform handles to resize the text box but I can't see all of them so I'll press Ctrl 0 (Mac: Cmd 0) to resize my document. Then I'll adjust the size of the box down until it fits within the white square.

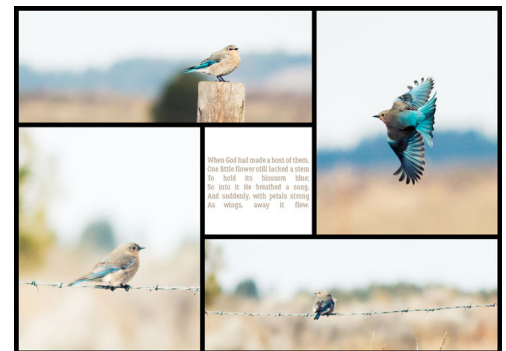
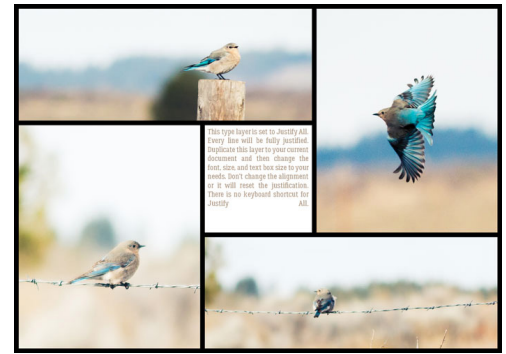
Now I need to update the text inside the text box. I'm going to copy and paste in a short poem about bluebirds I found on the internet. This poem is by John B Tabb. I've already copied it so I'll press Ctrl V (Mac: Cmd V) to paste the words. Then click the checkmark to commit.

When God had made a host of them,  
One little flower still lacked a stem  
To hold its blossom blue;  
So into it He breathed a song,  
And suddenly, with petals strong  
As wings, away it flew.

Get the Move tool. While holding down the Shift key, click and drag the text down to make room for a title. I'm going to move it down until it's along the center of the square.

Press Ctrl T (Mac: Cmd T) to get the Transform options.

In the Tool Options, uncheck Constrain Proportions and change the Height to 125%. Click the checkmark to commit.



Get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, set the Leading to 13 pts. Notice, that because we changed the Scale of this type, when we adjust the Leading to 13 pts, the system automatically changes it down to 10.4 pts. If your version of PSE doesn't do this, the Leading should be around 10 or 11 pts.



Click on the Create a New Layer icon.

Get the Horizontal Type tool. In the Tool Options, change the Font to Israquella and the Size to 30 pts. Use Center Alignment.

On the document, Shift click to place your title. Type the words The Bluebird. Click the checkmark to commit.



In the Layers panel, click on the Create a New Layer icon.

In the Tool Options, change the Font to Kano and the Size to 7 pts.

On the document, Shift click to below the poem to place the author's name so type John B Tabb in all caps and before you click the checkmark, do the following:

Put 2 spaces between each letter of each word and put 5 spaces between each word, including the middle initial.

In the Menu Bar, choose File > Save As and save this file for future use.



I hope you enjoyed making this card as much as I did! Feel free to use this grid for more than just the bluebird photos.

For example, I also used this grid to create a cute card about puppies! A friend of mine recently had a litter of puppies and she allowed me to come take these precious photos of them.

So, have some fun with this. I hope you enjoy making your photo grids as much as I did!

