



## Perfectly Personal Word Art

### Big Letter Mask Homework (Variation 5) – Photoshop Elements Transcript

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Unlike the previous sections of this class, the homework for this section will be less involved. We've already thoroughly explored different variations of the big letter masks. So for the homework we're going to simply have fun creating a beautiful and vibrant card using the things we've already learned. Think of this homework assignment like good old fashioned practice. We're going to practice using our custom big letter mask to create a card that you can print and use for so many different things.

So here we are in Photoshop elements. You'll need to open the artistic letter mask base file and create a copy of it and close the original file as I've done here. So first we need to press the letter D to reset the color chips. Then in the layers panel, double click on the thumbnail for the type layer and type in the new word. We're going to use the word thanks in all caps. And then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit. Now get the horizontal type tool and in the tool options, adjust the size of your font. We're going to use the size of 100 points because we don't want the word to take up the entire front width of the card. So get the move tool and press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then in the tool options, click on the align vertical centers icon and the align horizontal centers icon. Then press control D in windows or command D on a Mac to de-select.

So I've already opened two of the paint files that are included in the downloads for this section of the class. I've opened paint zero two and paint zero four so go to one of those and then on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag each paint file to the letter mask base copy document, do the first one and then do the second one. And then once you have moved both paint files to the letter mask based document, in the layers panel, click and drag both of the paint layers below the type layer. Now we need to resize the paint layers so that they aren't so big. I recommend doing this one paint layer at a time. First, I'm going to resize the watercolor paint layer, so press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options.

At this point, I need to press control zero in windows or command zero on a Mac to resize the documents so that I can see the transform handles. Then while holding down the alt key in windows or the option key on a Mac, click and drag from a corner handle to make the watercolor smaller. Once you're done with that, click the checkmark to commit and then repeat that for the paint splatter layer. Then if you need to reposition either of the paint layers into place.

Now it's time to color the layers of our big letter mask. To do that, click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and we're going to use a color that's going to coordinate with our card. Use hex number F0911C and then click okay. In the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it. Then in the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. Click okay. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

Now in the layers panel, click on one of the paint layers to activate it and then press the letter X to switch the foreground color chip to white. In the layers panel, click on the create a new fill or adjustment layer icon and choose solid color. Click okay. And then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask.

With the white solid color fill layer still active, press control J in windows or command J on a Mac to duplicate the layer. Then in the layers panel, drag the duplicated white solid color fill layer above the other paint layer. Then in the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. At this point, our paint completely disappears into the background, so let's go ahead and in the layers panel, drag the white background layer to the trash. So now in the layers panel, click on the type layer to activate it. Then in the layers panel, click on the add layer mask icon. Get the gradient tool and at this point if your foreground color chip isn't black, press the letter X. Then in the tool options, click to open the gradient picker and choose the foreground to transparent gradient. If you don't see the foreground to transparent gradient, click to open the fly out menu and choose large list. If you still don't see that gradient, click on the dropdown box and choose the default gradients list. Then in the tool options, set the tool mode to normal, the opacity to 100%, check reverse, transparency, and dither and make sure the linear gradient icon is checked. Now on the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag from the top edge of the word thanks and drag it to just below the bottom edge of the word thanks, about there.

Now our custom big letter mask is ready to be used on our card. To easily transfer a flat version of this mask to the card, do the following. First open the quick page card front JPG file that you can find in the downloads for this lesson. Then go back to the artistic letter mask base copy document and press control A in windows or command A on a Mac to select all. Then press shift control C in windows or shift command C on a Mac to copy all of the layers.

Then go back to the quick page card front document and press control V in windows or command V on a Mac to paste. And then get the move tool and on the document click and drag the word into place so that it appears to be centered on the card. Saying thanks is great, but let's drive home the point by adding a subtitle to our card. So click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and choose a pink color that coordinates with our card. I'm using hex number E15065 and then click okay. Now get the horizontal type tool and in the tool options, select a script font of your choice. I'm using the font grand hotel, which is a free font you can download from font squirrel.com. Set the size to 48 points, the tracking to zero and the alignment to center.

On the document, click once and type a secondary phrase like you're the best, you rock, or you're amazing or something similar. I'm going to use the phrase you're the best and I'm going to do it in all lower case letters and then I'll click the checkmark to commit. Now get the move tool and on the document click and drag the subtitle so that it's resting along the bottom edge of the word thanks and you can either center it or do it like I'm going to do in place it closer to the right end of the word thanks. At this point you can save the card front as a layered PSD file so that you can come back and change the subtitle or add a new custom big letter mask. I would also go back to the artistic letter mask base file

and save that as a fifth variation called artistic letter mask variation five dot PSD so that all of the layers are intact.

Now that we've completed the card front together, I also want you to know that there is a coordinating quick page card inside that is also in the downloads. Here's what it looks like blank, and here's what it looks like with a text box added and rotated to match the rotation of the white notebook element. I really hope you had a great time with this homework project and that you'll be able to use this card often.

Next up, we're going to look at using words to create negative space within a mask. I think you'll be surprised at how such a simple concept can have such a wonderful impact on your projects. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.