Perfectly Personal Word Art
Negative Space Mask Homework – Photoshop Elements Transcript
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In this lesson, we're going to make another negative space mask together. After that, I'll show you how to use this mask on the quick page I've given you in the downloads for this lesson. I think you're going to love it.

So here we are in Photoshop elements. I've already opened mask zero three dot PNG. In the menu bar, choose file, duplicate and then click okay to create a copy. And then close the original mask zero three PNG file. Now press the letter D to reset the color chips and then press the letter X to switch the foreground color chip to white. Get the horizontal type tool and in the tool options, set the font to Kingthings printing kit. Set the size to 40 points and set the alignment to center. On the document, click once and type the word or words you wish to use. I'm making my quick page about my niece being a flower girl in my sister's wedding. So I'm going to use the words flower girl in all caps. And then once you're done typing in your words, click the checkmark to commit. Now get the move tool and on the document move the type into place. I want my type placed along the bottom center of the mask, so I'm going to put it there. Now in the layers panel control click in windows or command click on a Mac on the thumbnail of the type layer to get a selection outline. And then in the menu bar, choose select, inverse. In the layers panel, click on the mask layer to activate it and then in the layers panel, click on the add layer mask icon. In the layers panel, drag the type layer to the trash and then in the menu bar, choose file, save as and save this file as negative space mask three dot PNG in the same folder as the others.

Okay, so now that we've got our negative space mask ready, let me show you how I used it on this quick page located in the downloads for this lesson. The quick page has been provided for you so that you can practice right along with me. I know that your pictures and words will be different from mine, but it's good to practice using the negative space mask so you get comfortable with it.

so I've already opened the quick page file that you can find in the downloads for this lesson and I've also already opened the negative space mask three dot PNG file we just saved a minute ago. So make sure you're in the mask document for the moment and get the move tool. On the document, while holding down the shift key, click and drag the mask onto the quick page document. And now on the document, click and drag the mask towards the bottom right corner. Now press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options. And on the document, click and drag from the top left corner

handle and reduce the size until it's about 78% smaller. You can see that percentage in the tool options bar.

And then once you're done, click the checkmark to commit. And at this point if you need to use the arrow keys to nudge the mask into place, you can do that now. Now you can open the photos that you'd like to use. With this quick page, I've already opened the two photos I plan to use and I'm looking at the first one now. With the move tool still active, click and drag the photo onto the quick page document and then click and drag the photo over top of the clipping mask. In the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. And then if you need to use the arrow keys to nudge the photo into place as best you can.

And as you can see, my photo still doesn't fill the entire mask completely. So we have a few options. The first option is to transform the photo and make it larger, but that doesn't always work depending on the photo and I don't really want to do that here. However, with this photo I'm pretty lucky the entire photo backdrop has white or almost white as the color. So instead of resizing the photo, I'm going to recolor my mask to white to do that in the layers panel, click on the mask layer to activate it. Now your foreground color chip should still be white, but if it isn't, make it white now. Then press shift alt backspace in windows or shift option delete on a Mac to fill the complex layer with the foreground color. Depending on your photo, you might need to use a different color here, so keep that in mind. Just know that this trick doesn't always work with every photo out there, but I wanted you to know about it in case it does help you here.

Now it's time to move the other photo to your quick page document. Before you go to your other photo in the layers panel, click on the bottom layer to activate it. Then go to your other photo that you wish to use and on the document click and drag the photo onto the quick page document. And in the layers panel, drag this photo to the very bottom of the layers panel. On the document, position and transform your photo to fit the space as you would like it to.

And if you need to, use the arrow keys to nudge it into place. At this point, my photos are placed, but if you haven't noticed my negative space message, the words flower girl, are hard to read right now. Let me show you a quick trick to help you fix that. This is something you can use on your scrapbook pages too. So in the layers panel, click on the pink layer below the negative space mask layer to activate it. Then in the layers panel, click on the create a new layer icon. Then click on the foreground color chip to open the color picker and we're going to choose a darker color from the background. I'm using hex number BFCB92 and then click okay. Then get the brush tool and in the tool options click to open the brush picker and choose the soft round brush. If you don't see the soft round brush, click to open the fly-out menu and choose large list. If you still don't see the soft round brush, click on the drop down box and choose default brushes. Then set the size to 500 pixels and the opacity to 100%. Set the mode to normal. Now on the document, click and drag over the area where the words are in the mask until you can better read it. Now all that's left is for you to add a title, some journaling, and a date.

So that's how my quick page looks now that I'm done. I hope you have fun customizing your mask and your quick page with your own photos. Up next we're going to look at a bonus lesson. It's a simple technique, but it can really add great visual interest to your digital projects while allowing you to tell your own story through your own custom words. This is Jenifer Juris with perfectly personal word art.