Perfectly Personal Word Art
Negative Space Mask Homework – Photoshop 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. I've already opened mask zero three dot PNG. In the menu bar, choose image, duplicate and then click okay and close the original mask zero three 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 that you wish to use. I'm going to make my quick page about my niece being a flower girl at my sister's wedding. So I'm going to use the words flower girl in all caps with the return used after the word flower. But you feel free to use whatever words that will fit with your photos. And then once you're done, 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, but you can put yours wherever you would like yours.

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. Then in the menu bar, choose select, inverse. And then 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. Then in the layers panel, drag the type layer to the trash.

Now 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 I've given you in the downloads for this lesson. And I've also already opened the

negative space mask three dot PNG file we just created and saved. Make sure that you're in the mask document now for the moment and then get the move tool. On the document while holding down the shift key, click and drag the mask onto the quick page document. Then let go.

Now on the document, click drag the mask toward the lower bottom right corner of the page and then press control T in windows or command T on a Mac to get the transform options. On the document, click and drag from the top left corner handle and reduce the size until it's about 70% smaller. You can see that percentage in the tool options tool bar at the top and then once it's there, click the checkmark to commit. Also at this point, if you need to use the arrow keys to nudge this mask into place, you can or you can use the mouse, whatever works best for you. Now you can open the photos that you would 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 photo that I planned to clip to my negative space mask.

So with the move tool still active, on the document, click and drag the photo onto the quick page document. And then on the document click and drag the photo over the top of the clipping mask. In the menu bar, choose layer, create clipping mask. And as you can see, my photo doesn't quite fit the size of the mask. And at this point I 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, but with this photo I'm actually pretty lucky. The entire photo backdrop has white or almost white as the color. So instead of resizing the photo, I can recolor my mask to white. To do that in the layers panel, click on the mask layer to activate it. Then double check that your foreground color chip is still white.

If it isn't, make it white now. Then you can press shift alt backspace in windows or shift option delete on a Mac to fill the mask with the foreground color. Depending on your photo, you might need to use a different color. 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 or photos to your quick page document. So here I've gone to the second photo I plan to use. On the document, click and drag the photo onto the quick page document and then let go. And then in the layers panel, click and drag the photo to the very bottom of the layers panel. Then position and possibly transform your photo to fit the space that's showing behind the quick page here.

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 fix that. This is something that 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. 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 going to use hex number BFCB92 and then click okay.

Now 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 restore default brushes. If you still don't see that brush, then click to open the folder called general brushes, and it's right there. Set the size to 500 pixels and then close the brush picker. In the tool options, set the mode to normal, the opacity to 50%, the flow to 100%, and the smoothing to 0%. On the document, click and drag over the area where the words are in the mask, about there. Until you can easily read it. And now all that's left for you is 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.