

BMC-S2-L4-el-Journaling-transcript



A Beautiful Mess Simplicity Challenge
Section 2, Lesson 4 - Justifying the Perfect Journaling
Transcript for Photoshop Elements

Finish off the beauty and design of your Simplicity Challenge scrapbook page with justified journaling. For this lesson, you will need the BMC-PlaceholderText.psd file from the class downloads and a journaling font. I'll be using the handwritten font DJB Annalise, but other fonts that would work well for journaling would be any handwriting font that's easily legible, a classic serif font, such as a non messy typewriter font, would also be great, and any classic sans serif font, such as any of these seen here. All of these fonts are free on the web and would look beautiful on your scrapbook page.

So before even starting this lesson, I would be willing to bet you originally skipped it entirely or you contemplated skipping it because, well, you don't like to journal. If you love to journal, you should know that you are in the very small minority. But before you make a decision to follow along with my recommendation for the Simplicity Challenge scrapbook page, let me show you why this lesson exists.

Apart from the fact that journaling is a vital part of any scrapbook page. It plays a big part on the design of this scrapbook page. Look how the page starts off with a simple refreshing well-ordered type box. And then, it ends with a beautiful condensed mess of a mask. You could think of this design as a gradient, going from no pixels to all pixels. What you see here is a well ordered scrapbook page design. Without the journaling, the page only looks half done. It has a blunt ending. It's less complete. On this scrapbook page design, the journaling is as important as the rest of the things on the page. In this lesson, the only thing we'll be doing is putting a journaling placeholder on your page.

Begin in Expert Mode of Photoshop Elements by opening the scrapbook page that you ended with in the last lesson. You'll also want to open the placeholder text document from the small downloads. With the placeholder text document active, in the Layers panel double click on the thumbnail of the type layer to activate the block of type. Press Ctrl C, Cmd C on

a Mac, to copy the text to your computer's clipboard. Activate your scrapbook page document. And then, we'll create a journaling box.

You may think of journaling boxes as a waste of time, but in my view, it's a time saver. Because the journaling box is part of the design of the page, it helps to put a temporary box on your page while you're just working on putting things together. Doing this adds speed to your scrapbooking process because you're not getting sidetracked on picky details of grammar and spelling. So to create the journaling box, press Ctrl 0, Cmd 0 on a Mac, to fit your page to the viewing area. Then get the Horizontal Type tool. On the document, click and drag a text box from the top left corner of the blank area to the bottom of the page and overlapping about half of the big script word. You'll want to leave about 1/2" border around the boundary of the page. So to reposition the box before letting go of the mouse, hold down the Space Bar, reposition, and then let go of the Space Bar and continue dragging. You can always change the size of the text box later. With the cursor blinking, press Ctrl V, Cmd V on a Mac, to paste in the text from your computer's clipboard. And then, click the checkmark to commit the change.

Now in the Tool Options, open the Font Picker and choose your journaling font. I'll use DJB Annalise. Set the Size to 12, the Leading to 50, and the Tracking to 0. Click on the Color Chip and choose black. The Left Align icon should be active and the Style should be set to None. Now look how pretty that looks. From a design standpoint, the journaling helps to fill in space, yet it's still easily readable because the title and the messy masks are both set at a low opacity. The small size of the font also adds to the simplicity of the page. You should always keep your journaling small but readable when viewed at your computer's perfect zoom percentage. Also always strive to keep the font classic so that it doesn't out shine the title.

Now our template is complete. In the next lesson, we'll make it zing by adding all your personal touches. I'll see you there. This is Jen White with Digital Scrapper.