

CANVAS PHOTOS EMBELLISHMENTS TITLE JOURNALING

The Challenge: Alignment

Try this. As you place elements on your scrapbook page, consciously place each of them in relation to some other element on the page. This is alignment. Using alignments provides order, margins, and meaningful white space. It lets you organize and group elements and even create visual connections between elements that are not near one another.

centered alignment

When you line your elements up along their center lines, you often achieve a formal look -- think wedding invitations and poetry. When you have a substantial amount of written material, though, centered alignment is hard to read since the positioning of the beginning of each line changes.

If you do center text, make your centered alignment obvious by using lines of clearly differing lengths.

The formal look of "This Girl" comes primarily from its centered alignment (and symmetrical design!). I used a template by Kellie Mize at Designer Digitals to make this page.

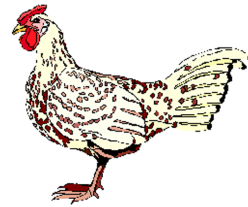
Note. This page does something that I just said not to do--every centered line of text is NOT substantially different from those that neighbor it. However, that precaution was aimed at avoiding lines that differ only a little in their lengths. What this design does is apply full justification to the type to get completely equal lines.

Moral of the story: the suggestions in this class are for your consideration and use but they are not hard and fast rules.





Centering is good for lining up elements that are not regularly shaped. See here examples of horizontal centering and vertical centering with a series of images. If they all sat upon a common base, the look would be less appealing.



edge alignments

Photos, blocks of journaling, and mats (all typically rectangular shapes) lend themselves to edge alignment. I began scrapping this Passover page, with the left edges of: title, journaling block, photo strip and patterned paper all lined up. When you've got a good strong line, you can add power to your composition by using it well. I further emphasized this line with the sideways subtitle running along it.

When you've established a strong alignment you may purposefully break it so that it appears broken with intention and works in the composition. I "jiggle" things along this line for a more casual feel. The photo block and patterned paper are slightly tilted but the strong line remains.



Check out a couple of other alignments that are less obvious on this page. The beginning of the sideways subtitle aligns with the bottom of the patterned paper, and the end of this subtitle aligns with the top of the "p" in the title.

The alignments in “Your Clay Miniatures” are an example of the little choices that you can make with regard to alignment.

- The top of the block on the left is aligned with the top of the title block (pretty much).
- The bottom of the small photo at top left is aligned with the top of the photo block on the right. This is probably the strongest line on the page and it adds interest to the page and connects the two sides.
- The two lines of the title block are the same length. Each side of this title block aligns with the sides of the photo block below it.
- The square embellie is centered within its column. While a general rule is not to mix your alignments, this is how I thought it looked best. (And, we’ll come back to this page on Friday to talk about that little choice some more when we discuss activating your white space.)



axis alignment

The two layouts with edge alignment that we just looked at align things along margins or gutters. You may also align edges along an axis. “Fast Forward” aligns the right edge of the materials in the left column along the page’s center line. The left edge of the materials in the right column is also aligned to this center line. Note that the journaling on the right uses right justification so that there is a straight edge at center and the journaling on the left uses the less common left justification to maintain an axis alignment.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Make a page in which you consciously create some alignments.

