

Canva Pro Playbook: Revolutionary Art Assignment

Trailblazers, you have three exciting project options for your artwork assignment on the *Road to Revolution*. Choose one that interests you the most and get ready to bring history to life with your creativity!

1. Revolutionary Event Posters

- **What You'll Do:** Design a digital poster for a key event leading up to the American Revolution, such as the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Massacre, or the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- **Focus:** Capture the mood, symbols, and slogans from the time. Think about how you can represent the emotions and messages of the event to rally others to the cause!

2. Political Cartoon Creation

- **What You'll Do:** Create a political cartoon that offers commentary on an event or policy from the period, like the Stamp Act or the Intolerable Acts. You can choose to present a Patriot or Loyalist perspective.
- **Focus:** Use humor, irony, or exaggeration to communicate a strong viewpoint. Consider how your cartoon could persuade someone to your side or highlight the absurdity of the situation.

3. Famous Figures Portrait Gallery

- **What You'll Do:** Design a portrait of a notable figure from the Revolutionary era, such as George Washington, Abigail Adams, or Samuel Adams. Add symbols or background elements that represent their contributions.
- **Focus:** Think about how to portray both the likeness and personality of your chosen figure. What symbols can you include to show what they stood for?

Choose the project that speaks to you and let your creativity shine. I'm excited to see how you'll bring these historical moments and figures to life!

Step 1: Getting Started with Canva Pro

1. **Sign Up or Log In:**
 - Go to [Canva.com](https://www.canva.com) and either sign up or log in. If this is your first time, you can use the Canva Pro link provided in Microsoft Teams.
2. **Explore the Dashboard:**
 - Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the Canva dashboard. The main sections you'll use are **Templates**, **Elements**, **Text**, **Uploads**, and **Backgrounds**.

Step 2: Choose a Template

1. **Search for a Template:**

- Click on **Templates** in the left sidebar. In the search bar, type a keyword like "Poster," "Cartoon," or "Portrait" based on your project choice.
 - Browse the templates and select one that fits your theme. Remember, you can customize every element, so choose one with a layout you like.
2. **Start with a Blank Canvas (Optional):**
- If you prefer to start from scratch, click on **Create a Design** and select your preferred dimensions. Standard dimensions are:
 - **Poster:** 18 x 24 inches
 - **Cartoon:** 11 x 17 inches
 - **Portrait:** 8.5 x 11 inches

Step 3: Adding and Customizing Elements

1. **Search for Historical Graphics and Symbols:**
- Click on **Elements** in the sidebar. Use keywords like "Revolutionary War," "colonial," "scroll," or "vintage" to find images and icons that match your theme.
 - Drag elements onto your canvas and resize or move them as needed.
2. **Insert Photos or Illustrations:**
- Use **Photos** or **Illustrations** to find relevant images. For portraits, search for historical figures or look for vintage styles. For posters and cartoons, look for images that match the mood of the time period.
 - Customize images by clicking on them and using the **Edit Image** toolbar to adjust brightness, contrast, and saturation.
3. **Upload Your Own Images (Optional):**
- If you have specific images saved, click **Uploads** to add them to your design. Drag them onto your canvas and adjust as needed.

Step 4: Adding Text and Typography

1. **Add Text Boxes:**
- Click **Text** in the sidebar, then choose **Add a heading**, **Add a subheading**, or **Add a little bit of body text**.
 - Use **Text Effects** (like shadow, lift, or neon) to make your text stand out. This is especially useful for titles and key phrases in posters or cartoons.
2. **Select Fonts:**
- Pick fonts that match the historical theme. Serif fonts like **Libre Baskerville** or **Old Standard TT** work well for a classic look.
 - Adjust font size, color, and spacing to fit your design. Use bold text for emphasis and align text to guide the viewer's eye across your design.

Step 5: Customizing Colors and Backgrounds

1. **Choose a Color Palette:**
- Click on any element or text box, then use the **Color Picker** tool to change its color. Canva provides a color palette based on your design, or you can choose custom colors.

- For a historical theme, try using muted or earthy tones like browns, greens, and reds.
- 2. **Set the Background:**
 - Click on **Background** in the sidebar to choose from solid colors, gradients, or textures like aged paper or parchment.
 - For extra customization, go to **Elements**, search for "texture," and add it as an overlay. Adjust the transparency to create an aged effect.

Step 6: Fine-Tuning and Layering

1. **Organize Layers:**
 - Right-click on any element to bring it forward or send it backward. This helps you layer text, images, and other elements effectively.
 - Use the **Position** tool at the top to align elements to the center, edges, or other elements.
2. **Apply Filters and Effects:**
 - For photos, click on **Edit Image** and try filters like **Retro** or **Greyscale** for a historical feel.
 - Use **Adjust** to tweak settings like contrast and saturation or try **Transparency** to blend images and backgrounds.

Step 7: Reviewing and Exporting

1. **Review Your Design:**
 - Step back and review your design for historical accuracy and visual appeal. Make sure the key details are clear and easy to read.
 - Use the **Zoom** tool to check small details and make final adjustments.
2. **Download Your Design:**
 - Click **Share** at the top right, then select **Download**. Choose **PNG** for high-quality images or **PDF** if you're creating a poster for printing.
 - Save your work in Canva by clicking **File > Save**, so you can make edits later if needed.

Step 8: Submitting Your Artwork

1. **Upload to Microsoft Teams:**
 - Once your design is saved, go to Microsoft Teams and attach it to a post in the general channel of your Website Design Team.
 - Include a short description explaining your design choices and how they reflect the historical theme.