

POSITIVE / NEGATIVE SPACE PROTEST SIGN

INTRODUCTION

In this project, we will create a protest poster using positive and negative space to emphasize our message. This project is inspired by **Niama Safia Sandy's *The Bend***.



The Bend by Niama Safia Sandy in partnership with AI For the People and For Freedoms



Example of protest poster using positive / negative space

In this project, the artist imagined a future where Black communities are not targeted by surveillance, facial recognition, and other technologies that target communities of color. She created these protest signs that were installed at 80 locations across New York City.

Today we are going to create our own protest signs inspired by elements of *The Bend*.

VOCABULARY

Positive Space: the main shapes in an artwork. In this example, the black sun on the top is our positive space

Negative Space: the empty space between and around the main objects. In this example, the black space on the bottom is our negative space

Symmetrical Balance: a design that is the same or almost exactly the same on both sides

MATERIALS

- Two sheets of 12 x 18 colorful paper construction paper that are different colors
- One sheet of 9 x 12 black construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick

STEPS

1

Pick an issue that you feel passionately about and would like to make a protest statement about. Your protest statement should be short and direct. Write down your statement on scratch paper and save this for later.

2

Think about a shape or **symbol** that represents your statement. For example, if you wrote a statement about climate change your shape could be a sun.

3

Fold your 9×12" paper in half vertically. Use a pencil to draw an outline of half of your shape or symbol.

4

Cut out your shape, being safe to just cut along the outline. Do not cut into the shape or to the edges of your paper. When you're done cutting your shape, you should have the full shape in one piece - this is our **positive shape** - and the outline in one piece - this is our **negative space**.

5

Place the 12×18" paper down vertically, then glue your black outline shape - the **negative space** - on the bottom half of the paper using a glue stick.

6

Place your cut out **positive shape** on the top half of your paper so that it is a mirror image of your **negative space**. This should be in **symmetrical balance** with your negative space.

7

Trace the letters of your slogan onto your last sheet of colorful construction paper. Cut out your letters and arrange them on your large paper to spell out your slogan. Glue them in place using a glue stick.

Send a photo of your finished poster to oxyarts@oxy.edu or tag us
[@oxyarts](https://www.instagram.com/oxyarts)