

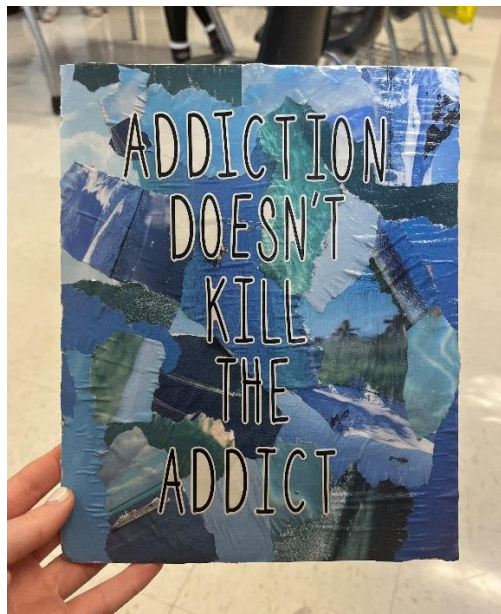
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Collage Explanation and Reflection



“Addiction Doesn’t Kill The Addict” Collage – Abi Jo Nelson

If I could continue the phrase used in my collage I would want to add, “It kills the family, kids, and people who tried to help.” The message of my collage is that addiction, whether it be to drugs, alcohol, or any other substance, has a very heavy effect on the loved ones around them. Addiction not only hurts the addict but hurts those who love and care for them as well. The blue images behind the words of my collage have an overall theme of water. Water has a ripple effect. This ripple effect is my metaphor and/or visual for this artwork. Water has a ripple effect just like addiction has a ripple effect on those around them. The water supports the message of my collage

by expressing an additional message that cannot exactly be interpreted through the initial message pasted on my collage. I can't remember the last collage I made, it was probably in elementary school through art class and was probably made from construction paper and magazine images. I have never made a piece of art like this with so much meaning.

I really enjoyed creating this collage. At first, I had no clue what I wanted to express through a collage and what images to use. I honestly just grabbed one of the magazines off the table and ripped as many blue images as possible out of it that I could, not even knowing why I wanted blue images. Once I had collected my blue images, I started laying them out and gluing them to my canvas. I noticed that most of the images I was using contained water. It took me a day or two to figure out what message I wanted to express on top of my water images. I honestly just kept going back to the health issue in my last two project preparations and figured out how I could make water correlate to alcohol addiction or addiction in general. I came up with a phrase that made a strong point about addiction and surprised myself when I came up with the idea of the ripple effect from the water and how strongly it correlated to addiction. Seeing my two separate ideas come together onto one canvas was super rewarding as I believe my art was also very visually appealing. I wouldn't say I learned that much more about addiction through creating this collage, but it made me realize how many people could benefit from viewing my visual, in the humblest way possible. I truly enjoyed making this collage because of how creative I felt while making it and how memorable this piece of artwork will be for me as it carried way more meaning than drawing a classic picture of a flower, not that there is anything wrong with that as I enjoy doing that too.