

“Forced Perspective Photos”



Objective: Use forced perspective to create optical illusion photographs.

Materials

- Cell phone or camera (one per group)
- Twitter account (optional)

Motivation

- Start the lesson by showing students some exciting examples of forced perspective photography. [This article](#) has many fun examples.
- Have students discuss how the effects were accomplished and what images they enjoy. Also, ask students to think about how the images they like could be changed or modified to work in the school setting with available materials.

Step 1: Intro and Brainstorm

Explain the assignment specifications to students, including the amount of time they have to work and where it's okay to shoot. Make sure to state that it often takes many shots and re-adjustments to get all the elements lined up to accomplish the desired effect. Ask them to form groups of three to four. Each group must have at least one cell phone with a camera and Internet access. Next, discuss strategies for creating effective compositions. Have groups brainstorm effects they want to create and places around the school that would make good settings.

Step 2: Take Photos

Check on students as they work to produce images, helping problem-solve as needed.

Step 3: Reflect and Share

If you have a classroom Twitter account, ask students to tweet their favorite four photos to you. Retweet them to share the images quickly and easily with the whole class. Ask each group to introduce their images and describe how they got the shots. Have the students who are listening discuss which photos are their favorites and explain why.

Tip: Let your classes' personalities determine your group selection. Classes made up of mainly responsible kids do well picking their own groups but a higher energy class might be more successful with teacher-made teams.