Principles of Design: Emphasis

The principles of design describes the ways the artists use the elements of art in their artwork. Emphasis is a detail of design that catches the viewer's attention or attracts the most attention. Usually the artist will make one area stand out by contrasting it with other areas in the composition. The artist makes the area stand out by making choices about size, color, texture, shape, placement, contrast, etc.

For our activity, we'll look at the artwork of Brenna Youngblood. Her work is purposely ambiguous, forcing the viewer to make up their own interpretation of her work. The artist uses her own photography as material on top of painted canvases. She uses the photos to create emphasis in her work.

Untitled, Brenna Youngblood, Mixed media on canvas, 2015.

Supplies Needed:

Scissors, white paper, magazines or printed pictures, markers or color pencils, and glue.

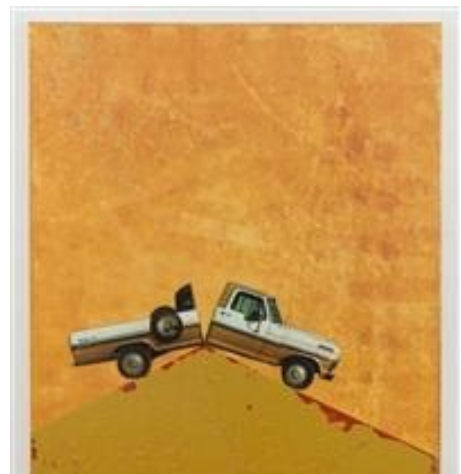*Uncle Grandpa*, Brenna Youngblood, Photographs, acrylic, and spray paint on canvas, 2017.

Activity:

Create your own artwork that demonstrates the principle of design: emphasis.

1. Use magazines to find objects, images, or colors.
2. Be creative.
3. Create a small piece, like in the examples, or challenge yourself and make a bigger one.

Example: