

# Handout - Self Portrait Mask

Take This



Slab of clay and tools

Make This



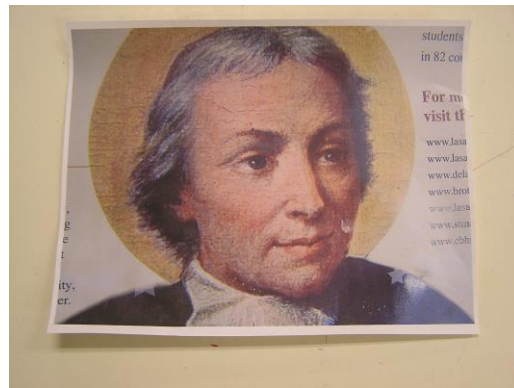
Mask

Read

**Tools:** Large plastic bat, needle tool, rim and other wooden carving tools, plastic container of water, sponge, paint brush and a picture of your face.



Tools needed



Picture of a face

**Preparation:** Slab a piece of clay about 4" by 6" and about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick. Use a ruler to measure and a needle tool to cut the clay.



Ball up paper towels or newspaper to create the general shape of your face. Place the balled up paper towels on a large bat and secure it with masking tape. Add additional paper to form the location of your nose and secure it with masking tape.



**Wadding up paper towels**



**Taping it onto Bat**



**Adding a nose**

**Laying the clay over the paper:** Using a needle tool cut off the excess clay.



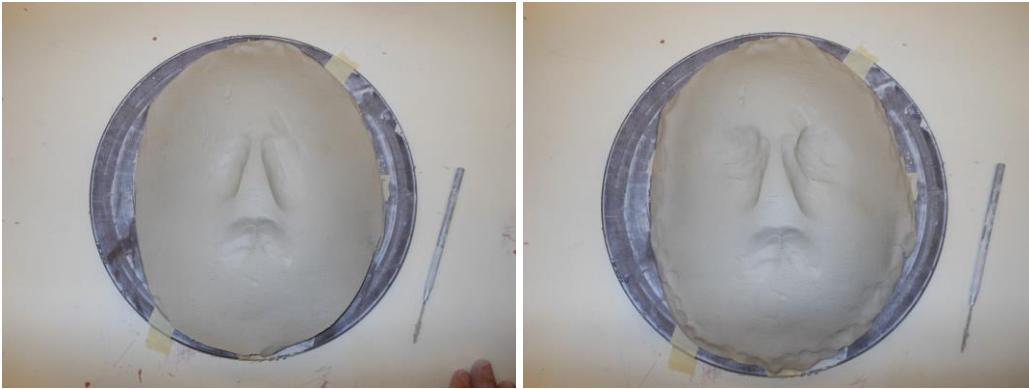
**Clay over paper**



**Cutting off excess clay**

**Sculpting the mask:** To help create the features, use any tool you think will help. Keep the picture of your face next to the sculpture and refer to it frequently. Touch your face and compare what you feel to what you see.

Shape of the clay to the shape of the paper by pinching in the sides. Form the features of your face. Make indentations for your eye sockets and mouth.



Add additional clay for your nose, eyebrows, and lips. Attach any clay by pressing at one end then across the surface. **Don't allow air to be captured** between the clay that is being added and the surface of the mask.



Compare the location of your features with your picture to where they are on the mask; move features as necessary, adjusting to make them more realistic. Add clay for your cheeks and take clay away below your lip. Look at your picture, look at the sculpture, and adjust as necessary.

**Finishing the edges:** Make the edges of the mask a little thicker than the rest of the mask by compressing or adding clay. Smooth the edges with a wet sponge.



**Adding ears and hair and signing the sculpture:** Add additional clay for hair and ears. Use a wire brush to create the appearance of hair strands. Carve with a sculpting tool to capture the front of your ears. Find a place around the edge to write your name.



**Using a wire tool to capture hair**



**Signing the sculpture**

**Finishing touches:** Spray the finished mask with water. Dip a brush in water and/or use a wet sponge to smooth out all the lines.



**Spraying the finished head**



**Smoothing with a brush**



**Watch** – The video.

**Do** – This is when students put what they have learned into action.