



# Floral design basics

Volume 31 | Gr. 7-12

Time: 1 Week



## Standards:

### PS.04.02

Create designs using plants.

### PS.04.01

Evaluating, identifying and preparing plants to enhance an environment.

## Measurements:

### PS.04.02.01.a

Research and summarize the principles and elements of design for use in plant systems.

### PS.04.02.01.b

Apply principles and elements of design that form the basics of artistic impression.

### PS.04.02.02.b

Demonstrate the use of tools used for creating designs.

### PS.04.02.01.c

Analyze designs to identify use of design principles and elements.

### PS.04.02.02.c

Choose and properly use appropriate tools to create a desired design.

### PS.04.01.01.a

Identify and categorize plants by their purpose (e.g. floral plants, landscape plants, house plants, etc.).

### PS.04.01.02.b

Create a design utilizing plants in their proper environment.

### PS.04.01.02.c

Evaluate a design and provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

## Materials list

- Floral Design Basics Kit ([NE40097](#))
- Wristlet
- Corsage pin
- Floral tape
- Floral glue
- Floral wire
- Aquafoam oasis
- Design bowl
- Wire cutter

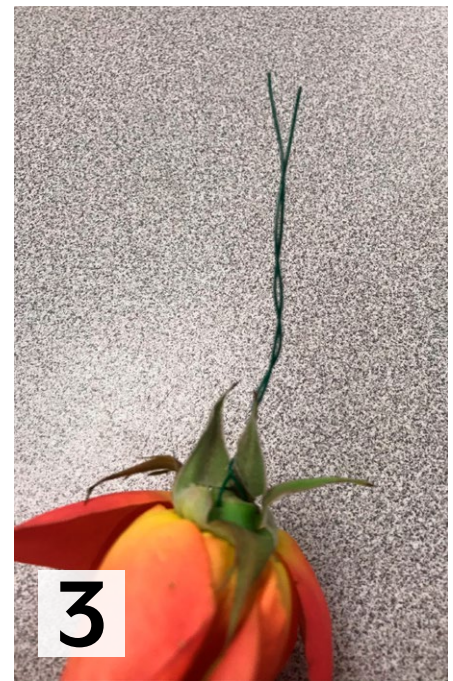
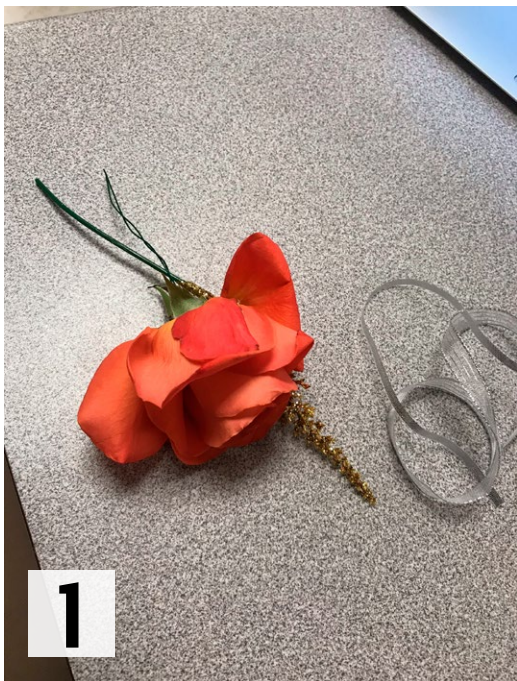
## Objective

Students will utilize plant and tool ID to create a boutonniere, corsage, and centerpiece using elements of design.

## Overview

Students will research the four types of flowers and common flowers used in design. Students will learn about various tools, tricks, and techniques used in the floral industry to create a quality product. With this kit, students will be able to perform design in school or at home, individually or in groups. Not included: live fresh cut flowers, artificial flowers, floral shears or scissors.





## Create a boutonniere using floral tape

1. Select a high quality mass flower with a straight/sturdy stem. Remove leaves from stem and cut to be about 1" long stem at a 45° angle.
2. Select complementary accent and cut at a proportional size to mass flower.
3. Cut greenery (leather leaf) about a ½" to 1" higher than mass flower for the backing of the boutonniere.
4. Wire the flower by piercing through the calyx of the stem the long way, being careful not to break off the head of the flower. Then bend down wire to elongate stem wrapping around the current stem. **(IMAGES 1-3)**
5. Use floral tape, pulling on it gently then pressing in place on stem to work down the stem in an overlapping pattern to cover the mass flower stem/wire. The floral tape is heat activated, so the warmth from your hands moving it and stretching the tape makes it stick. Pinch off extra at end. Rip off if needed.
6. Create a "U" or hair pin with wire bending a piece and cutting it short around 4". Hook to the lowest limb of the leather leaf and bend in place then tape in place to make a stronger/sturdy stem on the leather leaf.
7. Put mass flower in front of foliage; remove lower leather leaves if needed to show accurate proportion to each other.
8. Add an accent to either side to show balance; remove lower accent/foliage on the accent as needed.
9. Using floral tape, wrap all the stems in your hand together starting as high as up on the boutonniere (close to calyx as possible). Work the wrap down, overlapping on the stem to the end of the bundle of stems. If desired re-wrap the blunt edge you cut with tape to decrease visual or feel of the wire. **(IMAGE 4)**
10. Using wire cutter, cut stem to size (about 2").
11. Add pin through corsage at 45° angle. **(IMAGE 5)**
12. Mist with water to keep fresh. Keep in the refrigerator, if possible, away from produce that can ripen the flowers.





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## Create a corsage using floral glue

1. Obtain three smaller mass flowers or one large form/large mass flower.
2. Put some floral glue (about the size of a nickel) on a disposable surface so you can toss it later and your tube doesn't get messy/saturated. This can also be done with a hot glue gun, but it can burn the flowers, so floral glue is better.
3. Cut as flush to the base of the calyx as possible in a flat way on the largest, fullest mass flower. This will be your center.
4. Swirl the base of your first mass flower you cut in the floral glue so it is covered (not globs just covered). Touch the glue to the center of the wristlet metal backer plate a handful of times slowly. This touch and go, touch and go allows the glue to start to dry and become tacky. Then hold the flower firmly in place for about 30 seconds. Be patient – do not rush this part. Repeat with the other two mass flowers cutting their stem at a slight angle, placing one on each side of the initial flower at a slight angle trying to cover the plate and make a triangle like form from above. **(IMAGE 6)**
5. Using ribbon, accents, greens, fill in the “holes.” The filler will be harder to glue. Be patient with holding it in place. **(IMAGE 7)**
6. Mist with water to keep fresh and keep in the fridge if possible away from produce that can ripen the flowers. **(IMAGE 8)**

## Create a centerpiece arrangement

1. Obtain your design bowl and aquafoam oasis. Cut the brick of foam into  $\frac{1}{3}$  using a butter knife to fit the size of your design bowl.
2. Allow the foam to submerge on its own in water and retain water in its pores. Do not force the foam or you will break the pores and create air bubbles leading to decrease of floral quality.
3. Review the Floral Design Rubric and read about the different design principles to consider.
4. In a circular pattern add greenery/foilage to fill negative space of the bowl for the desired shape you want (a round shape will be easiest).
  - a. Ensure you remove lower leaves/branches on greenery – only the thin stem should penetrate the foam.
  - b. Cut all stems at a  $45^\circ$  angle to create a point and allow for easier insertion.
  - c. Use your materials to your advantage. Leave space between the stems rather than placing them right on top of each other. The stems should not touch and each flower/foilage should create its own space.
5. Add another layer of repeating greens. Continue until the bulk of the foam is covered.
  - a. Continue turning and spinning the arrangement to check for gaps. Use different lengths to create harmony without getting a “bad haircut” type of perfection needed.
  - b. Add in your mass or form flowers (usually three) in a triangle like pattern around the arrangement ensuring the stem is cut at a  $45^\circ$  for easy insertion and all lower leaves are removed.
  - c. Add in your focal point.
  - d. Add in your accent. Remember that more is not always better. Fill the space without over filling the space.
6. Conduct a peer/self assessment using the attached rubric.



## Research common flowers in the floral industry in order to identify

- Name (common and scientific), appearance, common colors, type of flower, hardiness as a cut flower, care techniques.
- Do individually or split up and have students research one then share.
- Suggestions: carnation, rose, oriental lily, alstroemeria, leather leaf, button mum, spider mum, baby's breath, ruscus, and mini carnations to start but the FFA has an entire plant ID list they use for CDE events. Pro tip: We practice one plant a day every day as a bell ringers.

## Draw examples of floral design principles to model good and bad in the industry

- Write/draw these on the board and discuss them.
- The primary principles are: proportion, balance, dominance, rhythm, harmony, unity, and contrast
- The secondary considerations include: scale, floral point, accent, emphasis, repetition, depth, transition, variation, opposition, and tension (these all work with the ones above)

## Demonstrate safety using floral tools

- Wire cutter
- Floral shears
- Floral tape

# Floral design basics – worksheet

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Type of flower	Definition	Example species	Drawing
Mass				
Form				
Line				
Filler				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Floral design principles	Element(s) are present	Element(s) are somewhat present	Element(s) are not present
<p><b>Is the design in proportion to all of the elements?</b> The sizes and quantities of elements should be proportioned to each other in a design. Elements to consider in the balance are flowers, foliage, container, and accessories. Each large item or a grouping of small elements equal to the large. Pleasing proportions and groupings often include groups of 3 or 5 in floral design. Proportionally the floral design should be 1½ to 2 times the size of the container in height or width.</p>			
<p><b>Does your piece have harmony?</b> Are the materials, colors, and textures in a floral design pleasing? Do the flowers, foliage, container and accessories blend well together and are they suitable for the design's intended purpose?</p>			
<p><b>Does your piece have unity?</b> Unity occurs when the principles and elements of design are present. The entire composition then becomes more than its individual parts to appear as a whole piece and pleasing to the eye.</p>			
<p><b>Does your piece have rhythm?</b> Rhythm allows your eyes to move around the end of the piece and then be pulled to a focal point and back again.</p>			
<p><b>Does your piece have physical and visual balance?</b> Physical balance means the weight of your piece is approximately equally distributed. Visual balance means the piece has elements that are asymmetrical and openly balanced.</p>			