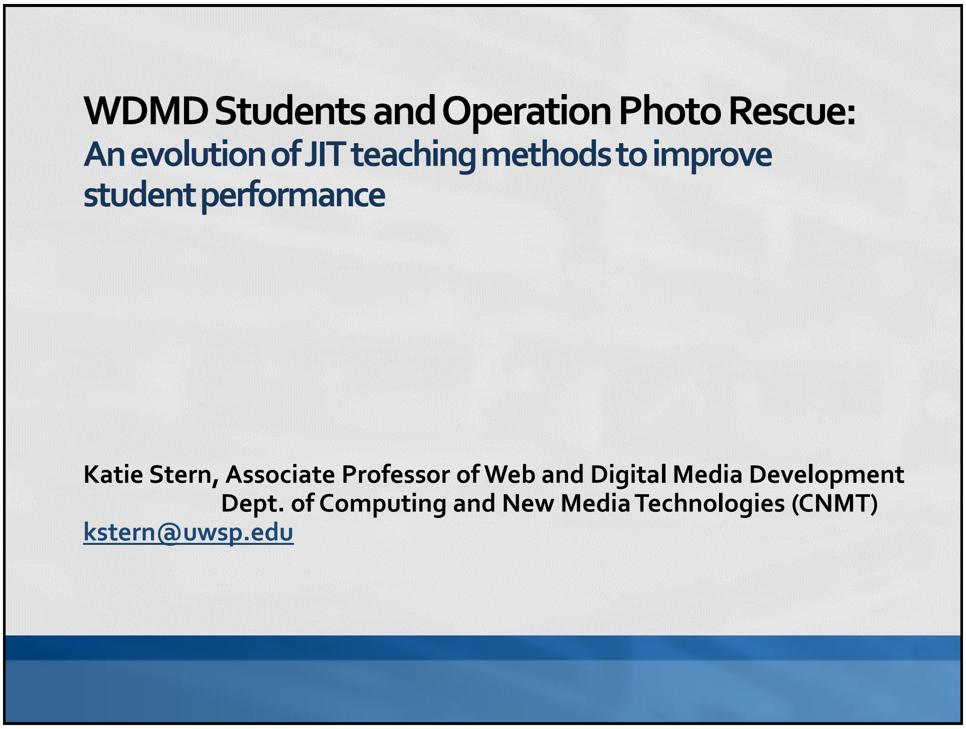

WDMD Students and Operation Photo Rescue:

An evolution of JIT teaching methods to improve student performance

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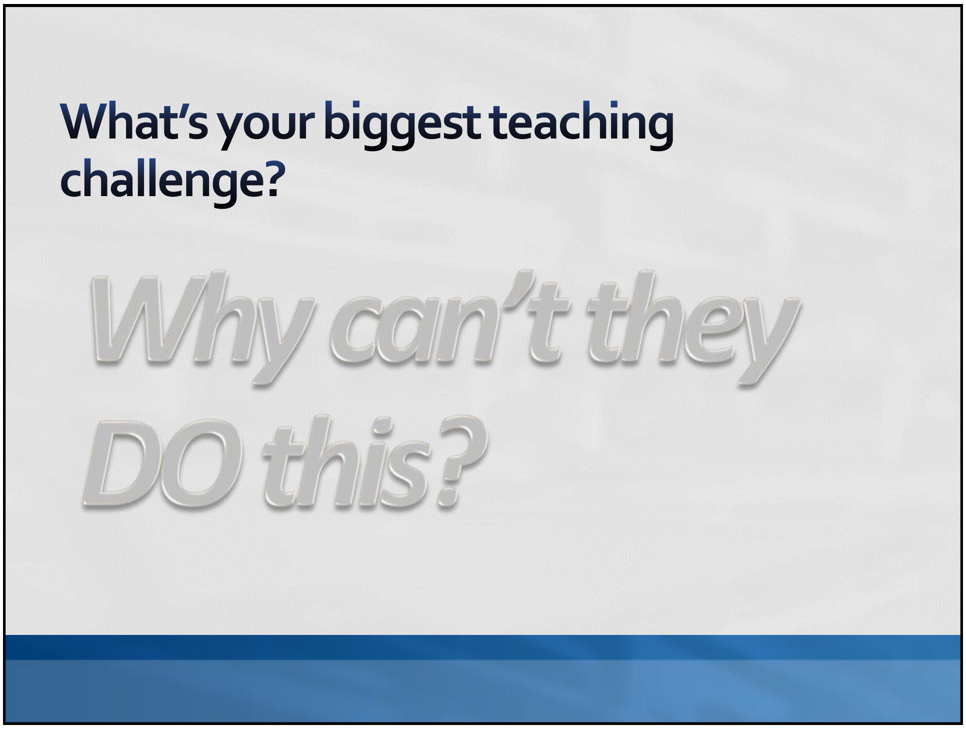
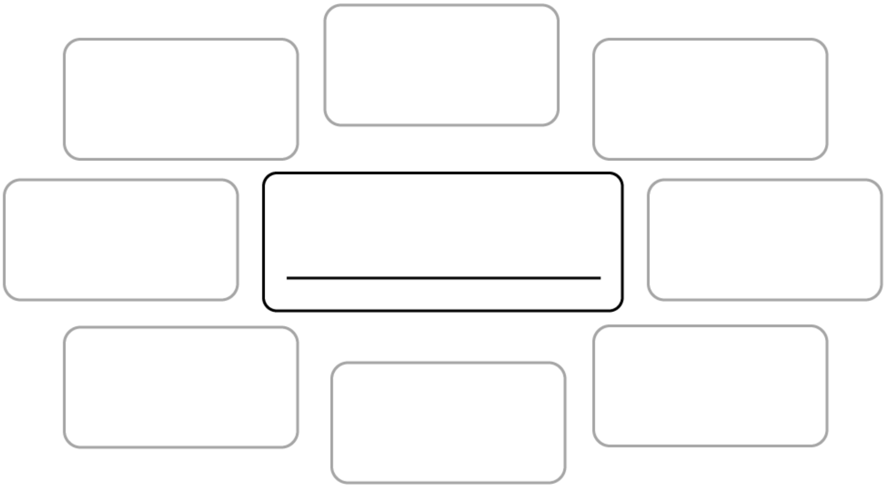


What's your biggest teaching challenge?

Why can't they DO this?



Plan for today

- Introduction to Operation Photo Rescue
- History of the WDMD 202 project
- Changes I've made and their results
    - A few exercises for your greatest challenge
- Future plans and lingering questions

- Operation Photo Rescue Story

Photo by Don Becker, USGS [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- the city that couldn't flood
Until June 2008

Photo by Staff Sgt. Oscar Sanchez-Alvarez, U.S. Air Force, via Wikimedia Commons

Photo by Don Becker, USGS [Public domain],
via Wikimedia Commons

- Worst flood in city’s history
- Hundreds of city blocks were affected
- Thousands of people were evacuated

Photo by Staff Sgt. Oscar Sanchez-Alvarez, U.S. Air Force,
via Wikimedia Commons

Our Work with OPR

- **UPDC Grant in October 2009**

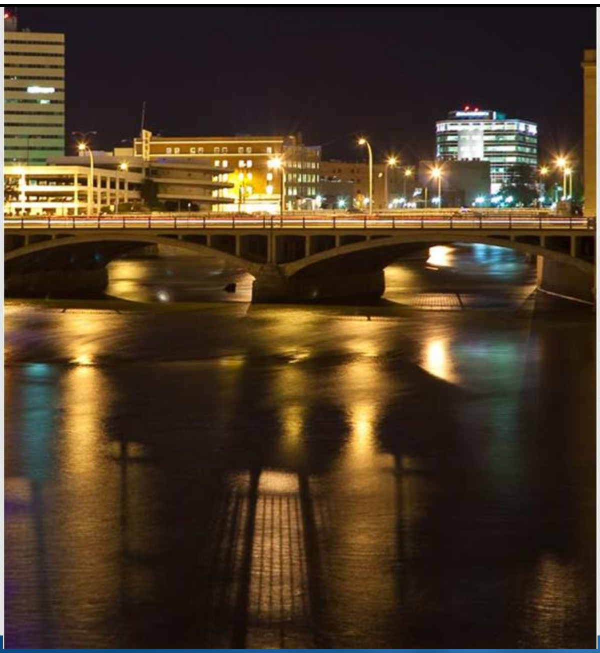


Photo by Jan Neil, http://www.operationphotorescue.org/2009/10/reflecting-on-cedar-rapids/

Photo by Jan Neil, http://www.operationphotorescue.org/2009/10/reflecting-on-cedar-rapids/

OPERATION
PHOTO

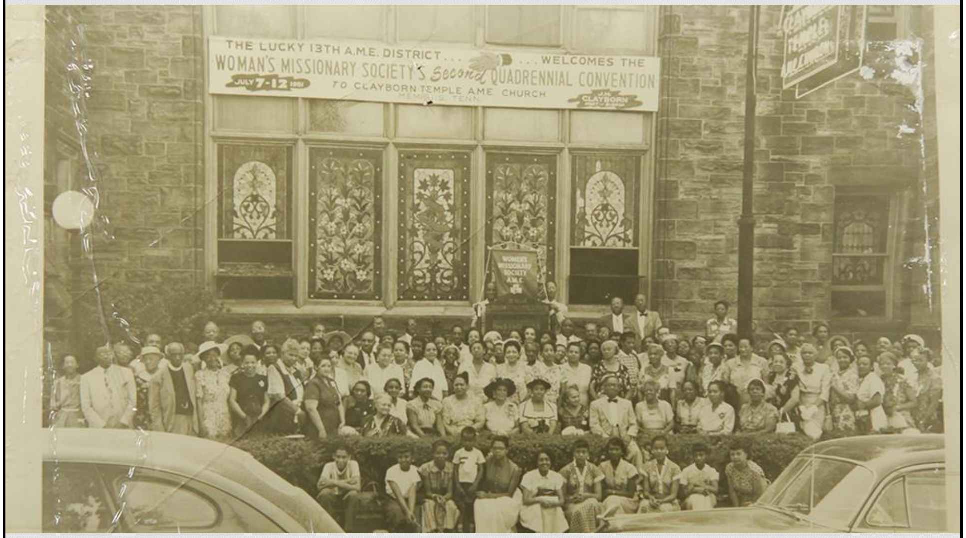
OPR and UWSP

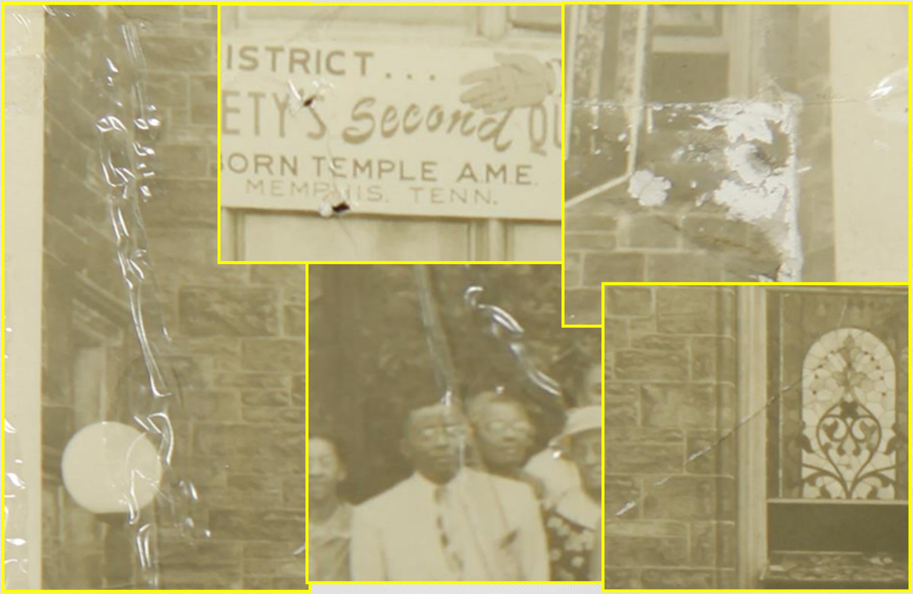
Teaching Methods and Observations

- Ongoing project for 4 years
- Basic skills taught in:
  - WDMD 100 (observational)
  - WDMD 200 (observational and technical)

Project Goals for Students

- **Become an OPR volunteer**
- **Requires both technical and observational skills**
    - Use retouching tools and methods in Photoshop
    - Select the right tool and method for the job
    - Sharpen observational skills


THE LUCKY 13TH A.M.E. DISTRICT . . .
. . . WELCOMES THE
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY'S Second QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION
JULY 7-12 1951
TO CLAYBORN TEMPLE AME CHURCH
MEMPHIS, TENN.
J.M. CLAYBORN

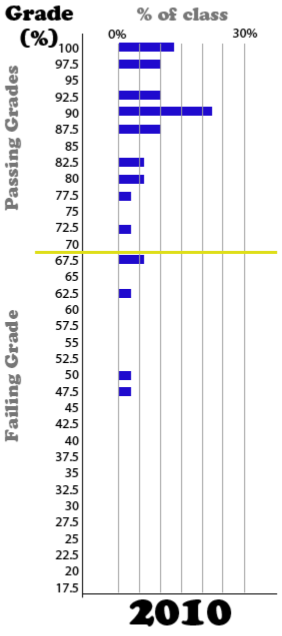

ISTRICT . . .
ETY'S Second QU
ORN TEMPLE AME.
MEMPHIS, TENN.

Year 1

- **Procedure**
    - Showed the photo
    - Demonstrated tools and techniques
    - Let students work

Year 1

- Grading
  - Notes, notes, notes to students
  - Same mistakes over and over
  - This isn't going so well!

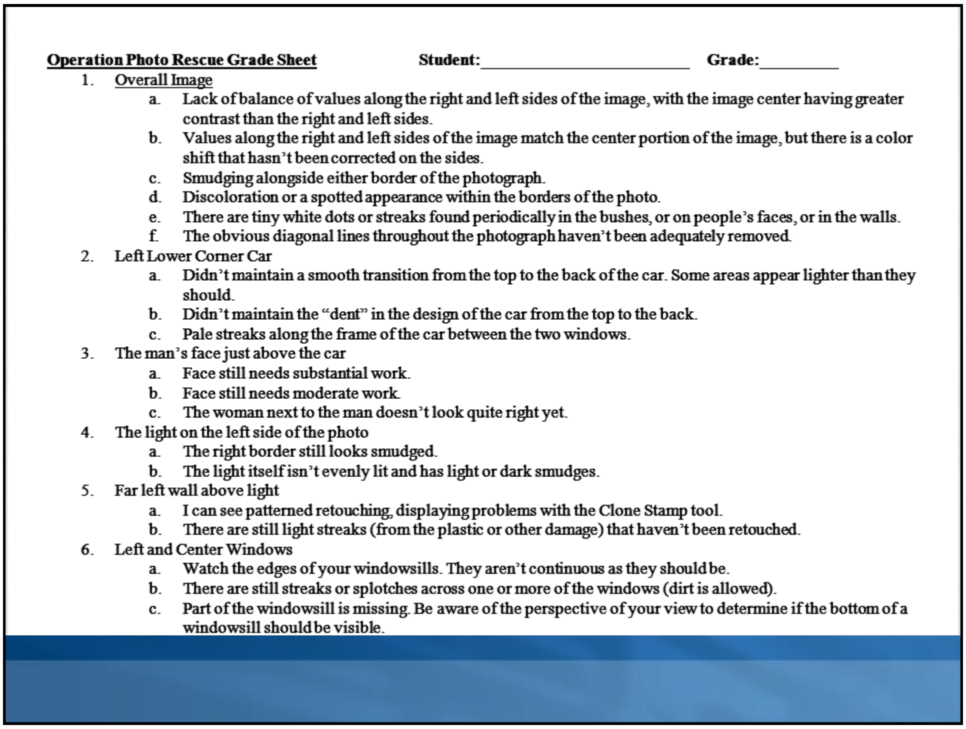


Year 2

- **Procedure**
  - Showed this photo
  - Demonstrated tools and techniques
  - Let students work and frequently jumped in for personal demos
    - Students loved personal demos
    - Students forgot personal demos

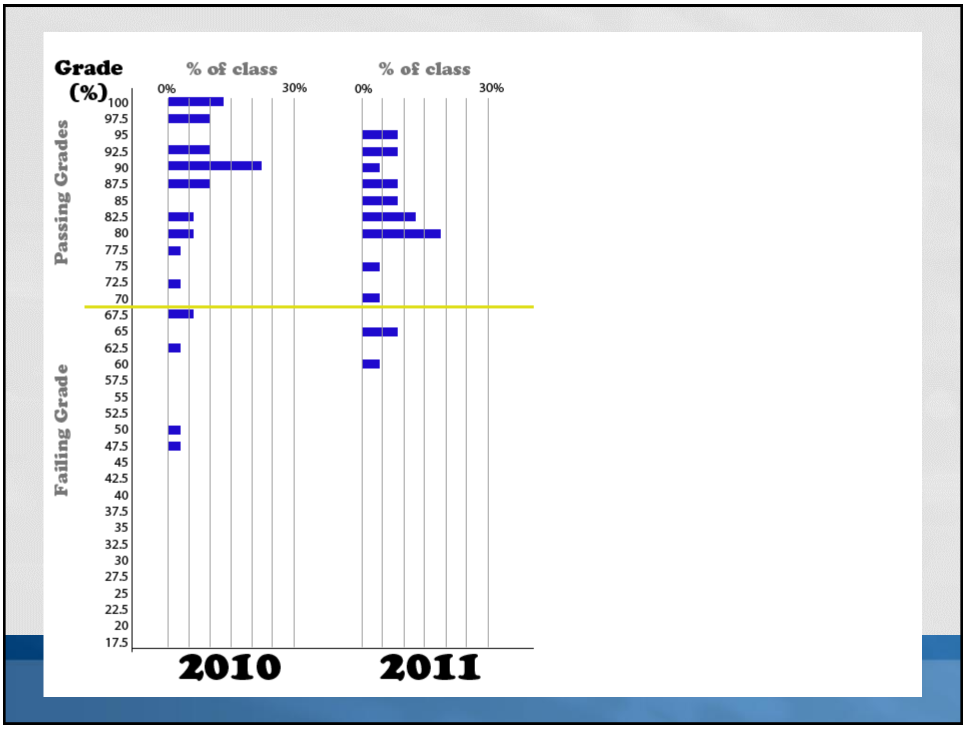
Year 2

- **Grading**
  - Notes, notes, notes to students
  - Created a checklist to copy/paste comments into D2L Grades section



Operation Photo Rescue Grade Sheet **Student:**_______________________ **Grade:**_________

1. Overall Image
    a. Lack of balance of values along the right and left sides of the image, with the image center having greater contrast than the right and left sides.
    b. Values along the right and left sides of the image match the center portion of the image, but there is a color shift that hasn't been corrected on the sides.
    c. Smudging alongside either border of the photograph.
    d. Discoloration or a spotted appearance within the borders of the photo.
    e. There are tiny white dots or streaks found periodically in the bushes, or on people's faces, or in the walls.
    f. The obvious diagonal lines throughout the photograph haven't been adequately removed.
2. Left Lower Corner Car
    a. Didn't maintain a smooth transition from the top to the back of the car. Some areas appear lighter than they should.
    b. Didn't maintain the "dent" in the design of the car from the top to the back.
    c. Pale streaks along the frame of the car between the two windows.
3. The man's face just above the car
    a. Face still needs substantial work.
    b. Face still needs moderate work.
    c. The woman next to the man doesn't look quite right yet.
4. The light on the left side of the photo
    a. The right border still looks smudged.
    b. The light itself isn't evenly lit and has light or dark smudges.
5. Far left wall above light
    a. I can see patterned retouching, displaying problems with the Clone Stamp tool.
    b. There are still light streaks (from the plastic or other damage) that haven't been retouched.
6. Left and Center Windows
    a. Watch the edges of your windowsills. They aren't continuous as they should be.
    b. There are still streaks or splotches across one or more of the windows (dirt is allowed).
    c. Part of the windowsill is missing. Be aware of the perspective of your view to determine if the bottom of a windowsill should be visible.

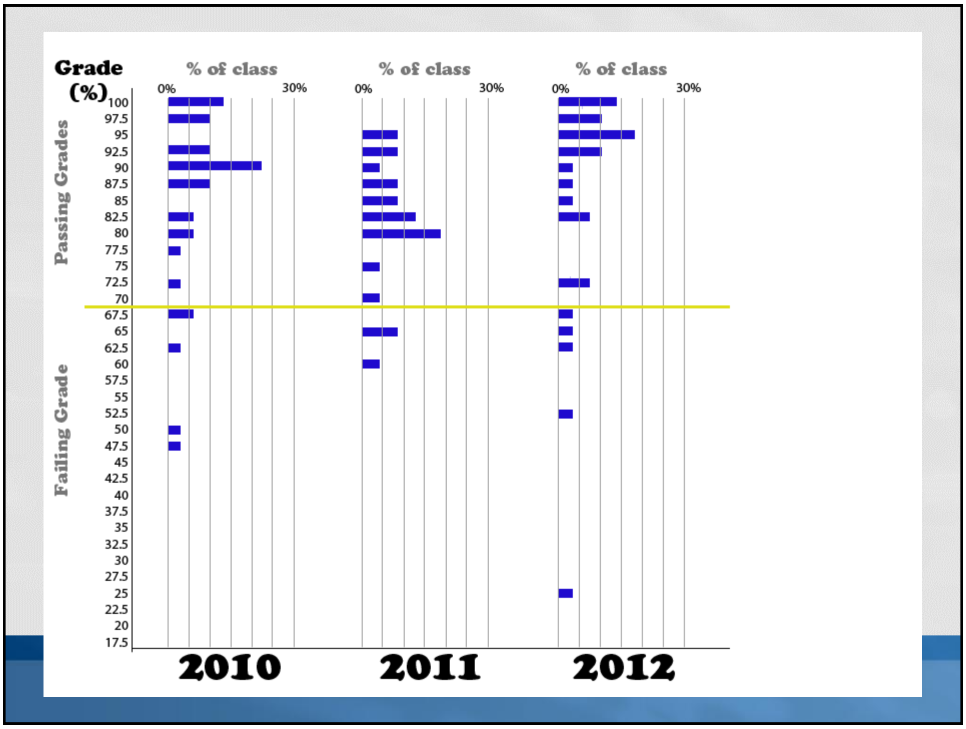


Year 3

- **Procedure**
  - Showed this photo
  - Demonstrated tools and techniques
  - Handed out grading checklist

Year 3

- **Grading**
  - Circled errors on checklist and added notes as needed



Feedback from OPR

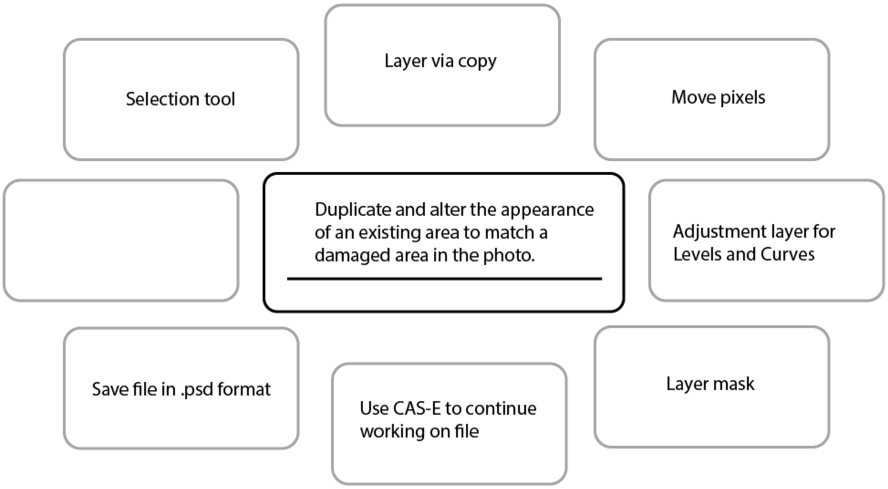
- Very pleased to have new volunteers
- UWSP volunteer work on new photos was satisfactory the first time around

Year 4

- **Procedure**
  - Showed this photo
  - Demonstrated tools and techniques
  - Handed out grading checklist
  - Predicted technical questions
  - Created Camtasia Relay videos

Year 4

- **Video planning**
  - Inventoried skills required to accomplish a task
    - Select pixels
    - Copy and paste to a new layer
    - Edit size
    - Edit value (brightness)
    - Layer mask
    - Etc., etc.
- **Let's try it!**



Layer via copy

Selection tool

Move pixels

Duplicate and alter the appearance of an existing area to match a damaged area in the photo.

Adjustment layer for Levels and Curves

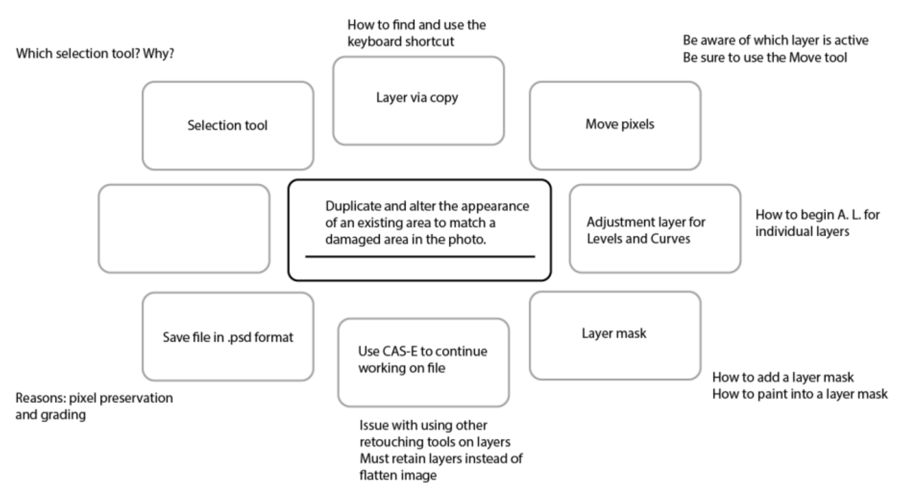
Save file in .psd format

Layer mask

Use CAS-E to continue working on file

Year 4

- **Video planning**
  - Inventoried skills required to accomplish a task
  - Reviewed my own teaching of those skills
- **Let’s try it!**



Duplicate and alter the appearance of an existing area to match a damaged area in the photo.

Selection tool

Which selection tool? Why?

Layer via copy

How to find and use the keyboard shortcut

Move pixels

Be aware of which layer is active
Be sure to use the Move tool

Adjustment layer for Levels and Curves

How to begin A. L. for individual layers

Layer mask

How to add a layer mask
How to paint into a layer mask

Use CAS-E to continue working on file

Issue with using other retouching tools on layers
Must retain layers instead of flatten image

Save file in .psd format

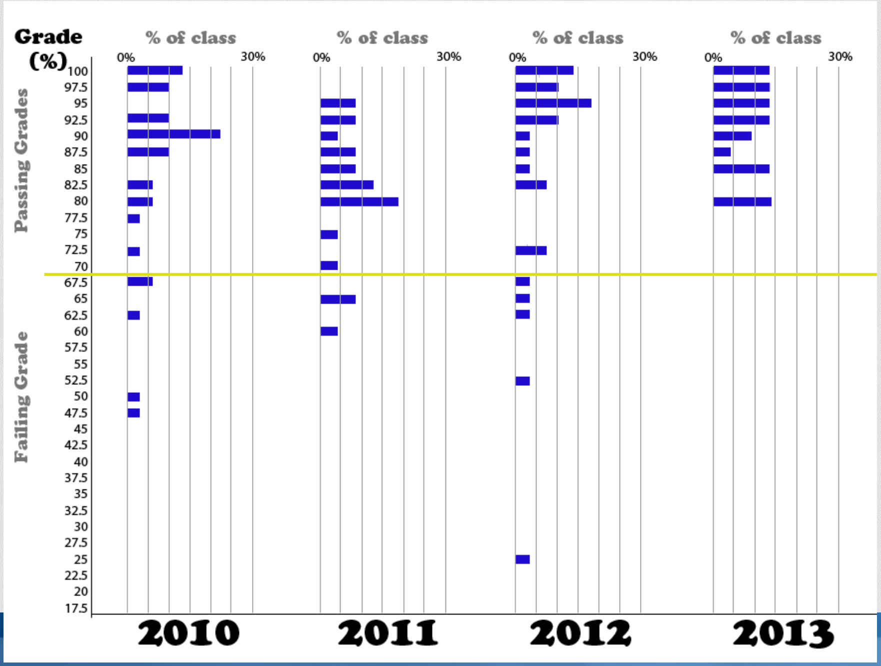
Reasons: pixel preservation and grading

Year 4

- **Video planning**
  - Scripted what I would do and say
    - Made sure to include “why” as well as “how”
    - Tried not to assume any prior knowledge
    - Tried to select a variety of mini-projects that covered different skills and techniques

Year 4

- **Created the Camtasia Relay videos**
    - Camtasia Relay is available to all professors
    - Check with the IT Help Desk on how to install and use
  - Minimal practice for each video
- **Placed video quicklinks in Content section of D2L**
- **E-mailed the quicklinks to students**



What do these results show?

- **Deeper learning? Hmm…**
  - Technical or observational skills?
  - What did the students think?

“The OPR photos we were exposed to in class were part of an enriching learning experience. These photos represented real lives and real feeling of a diverse group of people. We, WDMD students, could express our own emotions through the retouching of these photos. I know I tried to be as precise as I could because I had an idea in the back of my mind that who ever photo I was working on would be greatly appreciated….”

“I think that photos are a priceless memory and keepsake. For there to be an organization who helps others when those memories get destroyed or damaged is outstanding. I love that I was given the opportunity to learn about this organization and learn how to do the process myself….”

Photos by Tom Charlesworth

On the OPR Website

- UWSP Students and OPR
- www.operationphotorescue.org

What's Next?

Thank You!

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