

## **PAPER MACHE INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Cover your head form with plastic wrap. This will prevent your paper mache from adhering permanently to the form. Adding a light layer of vasoline will help mask release from the wrapped head form. Cooking spray can also work.
2. Prepare your desired paper mache paste (we are using Elmer's art paste) you can also make a paste with glue and water. Put glue in a bowl 1<sup>st</sup> and then slowly add water, if you add too quickly the paste will be too runny.
3. **Tear** newspaper or paper you are using into strips. Brown paper grocery bags also create a strong base; you can add prettier papers on the last layer to skip an allover paint job and add texture. The length of your strips may vary depending on the size of your paper mache project; however, you will want your strips to be about 1- to 2-inches wide. Tearing is better than using cut strips because the cut strips will cause a ridge. The torn edges make for a smoother layer.
4. Dip one piece of newspaper at a time into prepared paper mache paste, be generous. You want the newspaper strip saturated.
5. Hold the strip over the paste bowl and run it through your fingers to squeeze off excess paste. If it is left too wet it will take forever to dry!
6. Stick the newspaper strip over the form you want to paper mache, and smooth it down with your fingers.
7. Completely cover your creation with a layer of newspaper strips. They should all be over-lapping and running in different directions. Making an X shape across the nose and forehead will help add structure and stability. Ideally letting the layers dry completely before adding next layer is best, but this can take up to 24 hours. We live in a humid climate and weather can impact dry time so plan ahead!!! Due to time constraints of this class we are going to go ahead and layer while still wet. It will dry in the closet for a week so it will be fine.
8. Repeat this process until you get the desired effect, but you should have at least three layers of paper mache newspaper strips. On the last layer you can incorporate any colored papers or fancier papers. No need to put these on the under layers because they will not be seen!
9. The inside of your mask should also have a finished look. You can attach fabric or felt with spray adhesive to make comfortable for the wearer. This can be done before embellishing so the edges can be hidden with puff paint, glitter, lace trim, etc.
10. Paint and embellish. You can almost never go too overboard with the decorating of masks. This is the fun part, get creative and have fun!!! Feathers, glitter, and rhinestones are your friends =)
11. When dry, add elastic or ribbon straps so it can be worn. If it is to be a wall mask you should add a hole with a string or other hanging option.
12. Proudly display or wear your creation!

