Getting started with Illustrator

At first glance illustrator can seem like a handful but it is actually a fun tool! We are going to get started today creating some basic shapes to apply to our photoshop collages

Selection Tools

Basic selection tool: hotkey: v, use tool by clicking or clicking and dragging while hittling the shift key to include other objects

Direct Selection Tool:

works by selecting points that make up a shape

click on a point on the ouside of a shape to change it using

you can drag across to slect multopre points and move them together

us the shift key in the same way you might with your regular selection tool to

add in points from other shapes in your composition.

group selection tool housed with the direct selection tool

Gradients and fills
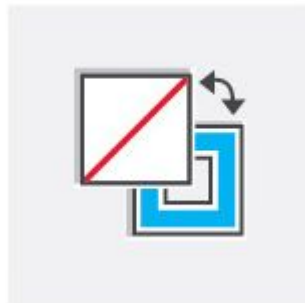
Go to the gradients section in your toolbar

Edit your gradient using the gradient options panel where you can mix colors and control your gradient

Use the color toggles on either side of your gradient to change the color

Noticing stroke and fill: toggle between stroke and fill using the arrow on your sf icon, pay attention to what part of your composition stroke vs fill changes are affecting.

You can change the stroke size in the properties panel

Fills toggle

Personalziging strokes:

click on your stroke in the properties panel to get sotroke options

At the bottom of this panel you will see options to make your stroke look more hand drawn

Creating basic shapes in illustrator

d" sets your fill and stroke to default

x toggles between fills

shift key to draw proportional shapes alt key to draw a shape from the center out

polygon tool and star tool- up and down arrows to change number of points

hold down command key to change outer radius of the star tool.

Drawing and Painting tools in illustrator

There are libraries of different pencil and paintbrush tools to use in illustrator. Illustrator allows you to smooth and refine shapes made with the pencil tool or brush tool and add fills.

Making compound paths and combining shapes

Select two shapes using the multi select tool

Experement with the pathfinder options to create more complex shapes by combining, experementing with the effects the different pathfinder tool options create