

## Postcard Making With What You Have

By Linda Kay – Visual Arts Instructor



### Supplies:

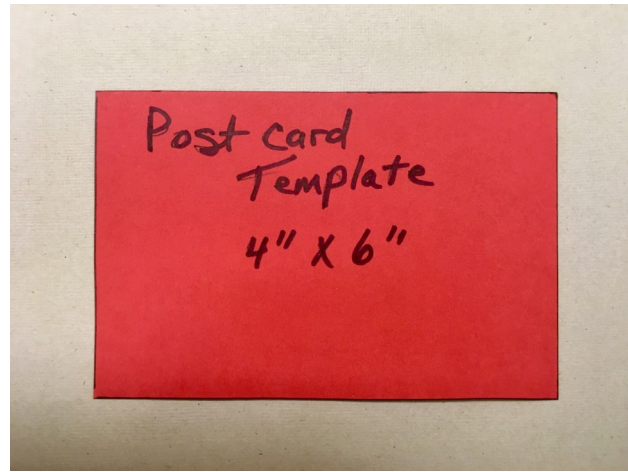
Paper – Card Stock Paper, Pencil, Markers, Scissors, Glue Stick, Eraser, 12” Ruler, Bone Folder, Old Cereal or Cracker Boxes, Magazines, News Paper Ads, Paper Scraps, Palette Paper or Wax Paper.

Templates on the last pages of these instructions.

### Directions:

Using the Standard U S Postcards dimensions, create Templates for the Postcards you wish to make out of your old Cereal or Cracker Boxes. These templates will come in very useful to trace out shapes needed for postcard construction so you can measure once and reuse them again and again.

**Postcards:** Standard U S Post Cards are No Smaller than 3 ½” X 5” and No Larger than 4 ¼” x 6”. Postage for these are \$0.35 each. I found it easier to create a 4” x 6” size, less thinking....



Now comes the fun part! Creating postcards with things you already have on hand. Look through the current advertisements you get from hardware and grocery stores. There are a lot of great little photos of things you can clip around with scissors and come up with for themes. Look at magazines you have on hand and look for scenes, flowers, adventures, words, etc.

**Consider these themes:**

***From my home to yours*** – Front doors steps, Garage doors, Street views.

***Let's plan a BBQ in the summer*** – Patio sets, Lawn Chairs, Grills, Playground equipment, Flower beds.

***Fish Stories*** – Fishing waders, Boats, Fishing equipment, fish, waterscapes.

***What's cooking*** – Cooking pots and pans, Food items, Dishes and Tableware.

***Hello!*** – Cute animals, People waving and smiling, Lovely landscapes.



### Cutting out the cards using the templates:

Postcards should be rather sturdy, so using Card Stock is best. Trace around the template you made onto your cardstock using a pencil. You can fit 2 – 4 post cards per standard sheet (8 ½" x 11"). Cut them out with scissors along the lines. Use your eraser to remove any visible pencil markings.



### Preparing Images and creating your cards:

Again, use the templates to help you with cutting out your images. Placing the template behind your image and holding it up to the light will help you to place it properly so that you get the most out of your images. Use a pencil or a marker (which ever shows up best) and trace out the template shape. Cut these images out along the inside of the line. Do a dry fit onto your card before gluing helps a lot for layering and fewest mistakes. But don't sweat it too much as these ARE Handmade cards and little mishaps enhances the charm and quality of your work.

After you have a composition that works for you, glue down the images using a glue stick. It helps to place the images onto a sheet of Pallet Paper or some Waxed Paper to help keep your work surface free of sticky stuff. And working from the background to the foreground is also helpful. Be sure to glue all the way to the edges and smooth the images down flat. Using the bone folder or the side of your pencil will aid in getting papers to lay down well and flat. This is especially important for the postcards which will get stuck in sorting machines if the papers are not glued down well.

Next you will want to add words. You can use Markers, Pens or Cut out Words from your magazines to create your sentiment. I found that writing them out by hand with a Marker was easiest and a lot less work than hunting tons of magazines for just the right word. If you want to make the words stand out from the background, you can cut out a contrasting piece of paper from your stash of recyclables, copy paper or card stock. After you have your sentiment chosen, you may want to practice spacing and spelling on a scrap of copy paper.

To finish and clean up your card, use scissors to trim off any over lap along the edges, erase any stray pencil lines, and look it over for anything that needs your attention.

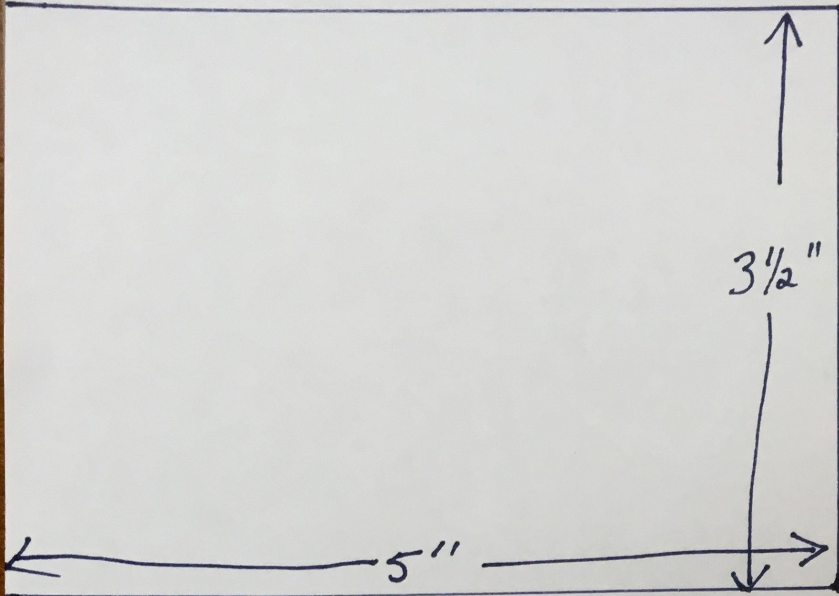
Mail these creations of love often. Make one or two cards every few days. Let's make Snail Mail a popular thing again! It IS a wonderful way to reach out and touch someone dear.

Happy Postcard Making!!!

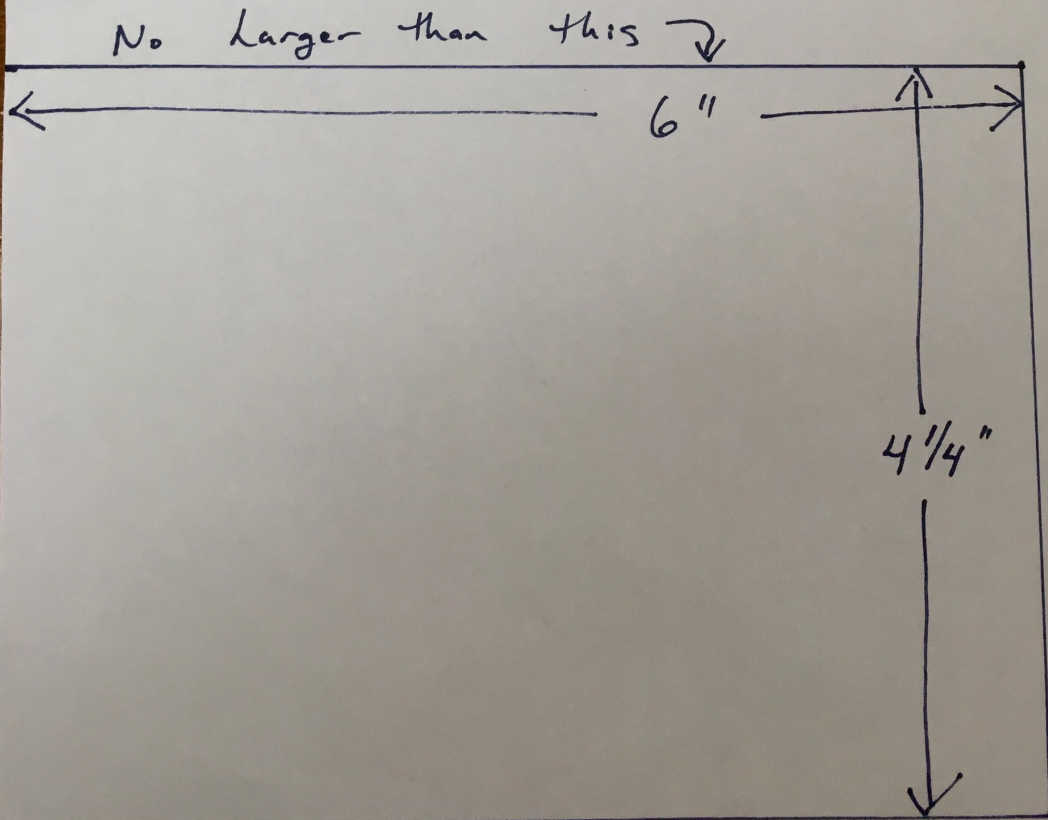


Standard  
U.S.  
Post card  
Sizes

\$.35  
postage



No smaller than this ↗



No larger than this ↘



8 1/2" x 11"  
paper.

4 post  
cards

2 - 3 1/2 x 5"

2 - 4 1/4 x 6"

Cut here ↘

