Make Your Pictures "Pop"

Step 1: Save the balloon image (balloon_start.jpg) and balloon text (balloon_text.docx) project files from: http://www.asciutto.com/hhs/

Step 2: Open balloon_start.jpg in Photoshop. Save it as a Photoshop file.

Step 3: Duplicate the background layer. We'll work with the background copy layer. This give use the original layer intact if we make a mistake. Turn of visibility of the bottom background layer.

Step 4: On the copy layer, select the Magic Wand tool. Set the options to "add to selection" and tolerance to 30. Click a few times to select the blue background.

Step 5: Right-click inside the selection and choose select inverse. Right-click again on the balloon and choose layer via copy. This will create a new layer with the balloon isolated along with the trees.

Step 6: Rename the new layer 1 "balloon" and turn off visibility to all other layers. Select the balloon layer. Draw a rectangular marquee around the trees and press the delete key. The will remove the trees from the bottom.

Step 7: Choose Select > Deselect or ctrl+D to remove the selection.

Step 8: Turn off visibility on the balloon layer. Turn on visibility on the background copy layer and select that layer.

Step 9: Draw a rectangular marquee over the top ¼ of the layer. About where the top yellow stripe is on the balloon. Delete the top section of the layer.

Step 10: Choose Select > Deselect or ctrl+D to remove the selection.

Step 11: From the layer palette menu, click the menu button and choose blending options (layer styles).

Step 12: On the Layer Style dialog box, choose Stroke: color: black; position: inside; size: 8.

Step 13: Turn on visibility on the balloon layer. The picture is now complete. Save the Photoshop file.

Step 14: Choose File > Save for Web and Devices. Select the 2-up tab. Under file options choose PNG-24. Save the PNG as balloon.png. (Note PNG formats preserve transparency). This completes the Photoshop portion of the project.

WORD

Step 15: Open "balloon_text.docx".

Step 16: Insert > Picture and choose the balloon.png picture.

Step 17: Click on the picture and under Picture tools, choose: text wrapping – tight.

Step 18: Click and drag to position the picture anywhere within the document. You can even re-size the image and rotate it.