

# TIMELY TIPS

## Design

### Design Fundamentals Refresher

#### OBJECTIVE

Students will review and apply core design fundamentals so yearbook spreads feel intentional, readable and visually connected rather than cluttered or inconsistent.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

- [Walsworth Yearbook's Theme Gallery](#)
- [Yearbook Spread Checklist](#)
- Writing utensils
- Highlighter (optional)

#### PART 1

### INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Ask students to look at a completed spread for 10 seconds without talking.

**Opening question:**

Where did your eye go first, and why?

**Introduce the four fundamentals students will focus on today:**

- Dominant element
- Visual flow or eyeline
- Consistent spacing
- Purposeful white space

#### PART 2

### GROUP OR INDEPENDENT WORK (15-20 MINUTES)

Have students work independently or in pairs with one spread from the [Walsworth Theme Gallery](#). Using the spread and the [Yearbook Spread Checklist](#), students should identify and mark:

- **The dominant element:** Is one photo or photo cluster clearly larger and leading the spread?
- **Flow or eyeline:** How does the design connect the left and right pages and guide the reader's eye?
- **Spacing:** Is separation between photos, copy and graphics consistent throughout?
- **White space:** Where is space helping readability, and where does the spread feel crowded?

Remind students that even modern, organic layouts still rely on these basics. While designers may use overlapping photos or clusters instead of a single rigid eyeline, dominance and visual flow are still what move the reader through the spread.

Students should jot notes directly on the spread or on a separate sheet.

#### PART 3

### CONCLUSION (10 MINUTES)

**Bring the class back together and discuss:**

- Which fundamental was strongest on your spread?
- What single adjustment would improve clarity the most?

Emphasize that refreshing fundamentals is not about starting over. It's about making small, intentional design choices that strengthen storytelling.