

CROPPING A SQUARE IMAGE INTO A CIRCLE IN PHOTOSHOP

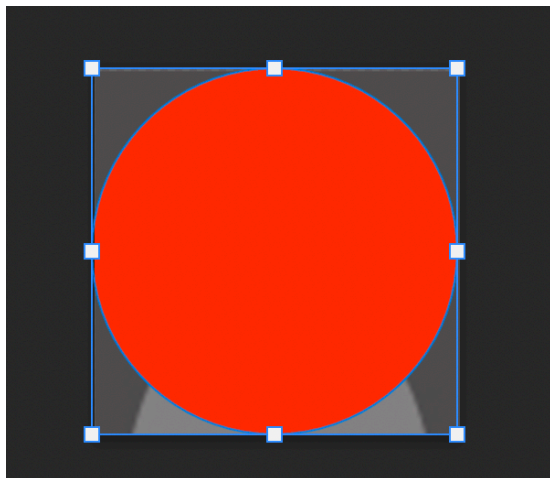
For the social media assignment, you are being asked to turn in both a square avatar and a circular version of the same avatar. Here are instructions on how to achieve this in Photoshop using a mask.

Before you start, make sure you have the square version of your avatar finished. If it's still a PSD, export it as a jpg (that will make this process easier). At the end, you should have a square version as a jpg and a round version as a png.

Open the jpg of your square avatar in Photoshop.

Using the Circle tool, draw a circle above your image, making it stretch from one end to the other so it's 400 x 400 pixels. (An alternative to this, if you want to make sure your circle is the right size, is to select the circle tool and click once on your canvas. That will bring up a dialog box where you can put in the size of the circle — 400 x 400 — and then just move it so it's on top of your image.

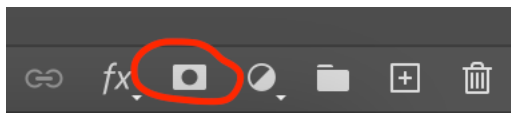
It should look like this:



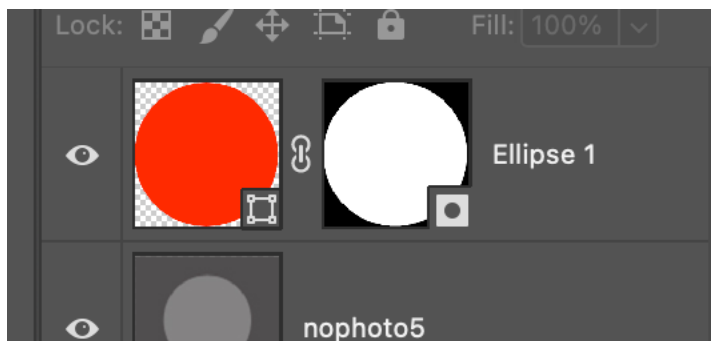
The circle will be on its own layer. That's important.

With the circle layer selected, use the Quick Selection tool or the Magic Wand to select the circle itself. Make sure you see the "marching ants" around the circle.

Click the Quick Mask tool at the bottom of the layers panel to create a mask. The Quick Mask tool is a rectangle with a black circle in the middle and looks like this:

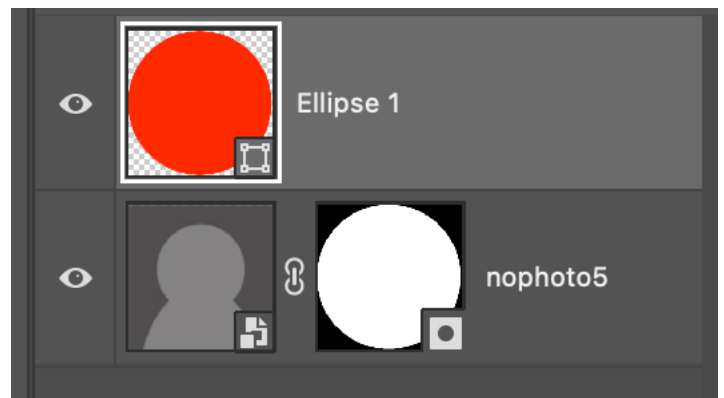


You'll know you did the mask correctly when your circle layer looks like this and you see the mask (with the white circle in the middle):



If you don't see the mask, make sure you selected the circle using the quick selection tool before trying to make the Quick Mask. (You can't make a mask without a selection.)

From here, select the Circle layer and click the mask once. This selects the mask. Drag it into the layer that has your avatar in it. Your layers should look like this now:



Delete the layer that had the circle in it because you don't need it anymore.

The final result should look like this:



From here, you can do a Save As and save it as a PNG, or go to Export and do "Export as PNG" to save your circular avatar.