**Image Tracing and Clipping Mask Notes**  
  
**Image tracing through Control Panel:**

1. Find an image online. Preferably a black and white image or a solid color image.
2. Place image into Illustrator.
3. Click on the image with your move tool.
4. In your control panel, notice the button that says “Image Trace”.
5. Click the drop-down menu to view all available options for image trace.
   1. Play with each option to see what it puts out. Just trace an image with an option, then Ctrl + Z to undo the image trace.
   2. Your image has changed from a Raster image to a Vector Image.
6. Go through the available options in the View category at the top of your control panel.
7. After you’ve selected the best option, click the “Expand” button in the control panel where the image trace button was.
   1. This takes the separated colors within the image trace and creates individual objects from them.
8. Right click on the image and select “Ungroup”.
   1. Now, each individual color is separated into objects and you can edit and change them like you would any object in Illustrator.

**Image tracing through Image Trace Panel:**

1. Find an image online in full color.
2. Place it into your file.
3. Click on the Window button in the Application Bar and selected Image Trace.
4. At the top, there are icons that are presets.
   1. Play with the icons and see what the results turn out as.
5. Next option: Presets. Just like your control panel, these are various tracing options you have.
6. View: this gives you various options to view your tracing result in.
7. Mode: Black and white, color or greyscale.
8. Palette: Limited, full-tone and automatic.
9. Colors: Select the amount of colors you’d like present in your image.
10. Select the drop down for Advanced.
    1. Paths: Path fitting (higher value means tighter fit).
    2. Corners: Corner Emphasis (higher value means more corners).
    3. Noise: Reduce noise by ignoring areas with specified pixel size.
11. Method: Abutting (Creates cut out paths)
12. Overlapping: Creates cutout paths.
13. Ignore white: removes white from tracing results.
14. Preview: Previews the tracing results before applying.

**Clipping Masks:**

1. Find an image online and paste it to your artboard.
2. Create a circle over the top of the image.
   1. If not on top, make sure you select the object you just created, right click, arrange and bring to front.
3. Select both the image and the shape you created.
   1. Go to Object -> Clipping Mask -> Make
   2. Now the original image is masked within the object you created.

**Clipping Masks with Multiple Objects:**

1. Image trace your image with whatever settings you like.
2. Create a few objects over the top of the image.
3. Select the image traced image and the objects you created.
4. Right click on the objects and Group them.
5. Create a path with the pen tool and place it over the area you’d like to create a clipping mask on.
6. Select the pen tool path and the grouped objects with the image.
7. Right click and select Create Clipping Mask.