Shapes can overlap (creates a unique edge) but not fitted back together, it is the spaces (or edges) that show in the print (the shapes as defined by their edges)

Separations between each individual shape is the essence of this process, if students fail to cut shapes apart they can go back and create separations using a sharp knife to make two close cuts and peel out to remove the lines needed to create an image

Having an earlier (simplified) lesson on cutting and arranging shapes to create a composition really helps in understanding what it takes to make this process work to create an image

An example of an earlier cut paper composition (White on Black) is below. It was done by Ali Sultani before we made our collograph printing plates



After everything is glued down, you might suggest adding more texture, as with lace paper doilies, or thin string, or rough cuts and slashes made with a knife