

# Art Techniques

## Drawing

*For the most part, drawings are made of curved and straight lines that can be thin or thick. Drawing can be found in almost any medium including printmaking, pastels, painting and even some sculpture. However, pencil, charcoal or pen and ink are usually most associated with drawing. Really great drawings can be achieved by using the simplest of tools: pencil and felt tip markers. Although crayons can achieve some interesting line, avoid using them as it is nearly impossible to vary the thickness or at times keep the lines distinct. Later, after some mastery of basic drawing techniques, it might be interesting to try crayons or media. Or alternatively add them to the drawings for interest.*

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**You will need:** Pencils **OR** Felt-Tip Pens and Drawing Paper

Number 2 pencils are great for drawing. They are easy to use, allow a wide variety of light and dark lines and can be found in any classroom. For variation, hunt up what used to be called kindergarten or beginner's pencils (large, fat pencils). The kids really love these and they offer a darker, thicker line. If you want use drawing pencils try using 2B, 3B and 6B found at any art supply store.

Felt-tips pens are also wonderful. They are easy to use, allow for a wide variety of light and dark lines, and can't be erased.

Paper made for drawing is best. It tolerates the pressures placed on it by the pencil and felt tip pen, easers and water much better. In a pinch photocopy paper will work.

Color. Pencils and felt tip pens come in a variety of colors. Color can add interest to a drawing.

### Experiment with Line

**Light and Dark Lines:** Draw a line, gradually putting pressure on the point of your pencil or felt tip pen. Light pressure creates light lines. Heavier pressure creates darker lines.

**Thick and Thin Lines:** Unsharpened pencils create fatter lines. Sharp pencils create thin lines. Go over lines to increase thickness if needed. Use fat pencils or markers to create thick lines.

**Curved and Straight Lines:** Vary the types of lines for interest. Use a mixture of straight, curved and jagged lines.

**Sketching:** Sketching tends to be done quickly with rapid strokes of the pencil or pen using thin, thick, curved or straight lines. A sketch might have one line or a series of lines closely spaced or overlapping. Sketching can establish volume, shape, form, light or shadow. Lightly sketched lines can be used as a support for a work in another media. Use the pencil or felt tip pen to quickly build up an image. Don't worry so much about where to put the lines. Allow overlap to suggest form, shape and dark and light shadows. Work through misplaced lines. Don't erase.

**Controlled or Defined Lines:** A controlled line is more deliberate than a sketched line. It feels more permanent and offers more definition. Sometimes it feels a little heavier and more solid on the page. Use controlled line to emphasize movement, shape or form. It is especially great where you want to emphasize the contour or outline of a person or object. Mixing controlled lines with sketched lines can create an extremely satisfying drawing.

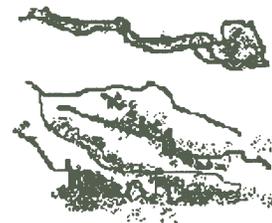
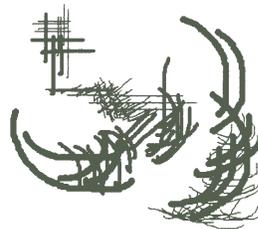
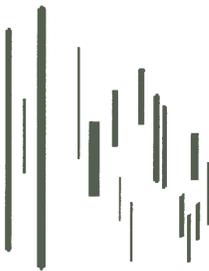
**Shading the Drawing:** Shading helps to create form and shape, volume and space, and define light and shadow in a drawing. It can be achieved in a variety of ways, and always adds interest.

**Hatching or Cross-hatching:** Hatched or cross-hatched lines can be curved, straight or jagged. They can be thick or thin. The character of the line itself – sketch or controlled, can add interest to a drawing.

**Coloring, Filling Areas and Blending:** Using the side of a pencil, you can “color” areas of a drawing. Create darker areas by laying or by applying more pressure. Layering allows for more control in the build up of darker areas of the drawing. Blend areas gradually into one another, moving from light to dark. Blending can be a very effective technique in colored pencil work where you want to blend one color into another. Coloring or blending is not as easy with felt tip pens. However, felt tip pens beginning to dry up can sometimes be used effectively in this manner.

**Smudging:** Smudging can be very effective for shading areas of a drawing. It can also soften lines so that they lose their hard edges. Try smudging lines or colored areas of the drawing with a finger, tissue or a charcoal/pastel stump. An eraser can also be used to create some interesting effects. But control it, lifting graphite gradually and carefully for best results. With felt tip pens, smudging can be done with a lightly dampened tissue for more delicate effects or for more dramatic effects, use a paintbrush dipped in water.

**Washes:** A thin watercolor wash can be laid down on the paper in advance or after the drawing is completed to provide interest. Allow the wash to dry thoroughly before drawing.



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# Art Techniques

## Drawing Portraits

*Portraits can be fun and fairly easy for young people to do if they understand a few basic rules.*

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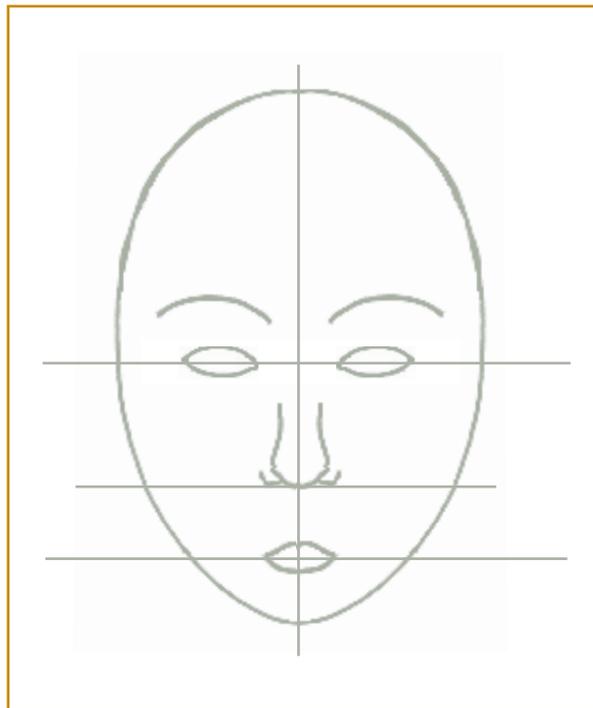
**You will need:** Paper & Pencil

### Making the Portrait:

1. Start by drawing an oval.
2. Draw a vertical line lightly down the center of the oval/face.
3. Next draw a horizontal line through the center of the oval/face.
4. Draw a horizontal line halfway between the bottom of the oval and the center of the oval/face.
5. Draw another horizontal line halfway between the bottom of the oval and the line you have just drawn.
6. On first horizontal, place the eyes; on the second the bottom of the nose; and on the third, the mouth. Eyebrows go just above the eyes. Ears between the eyebrows and the nose.
7. Elaborate from this point on.

**Note: It is often worthwhile to draw a number of circles and ovals in a practice session before trying to draw the oval for the face. To help proportion the face, it is often good to remember is that the face is five eye lengths from side to side.**

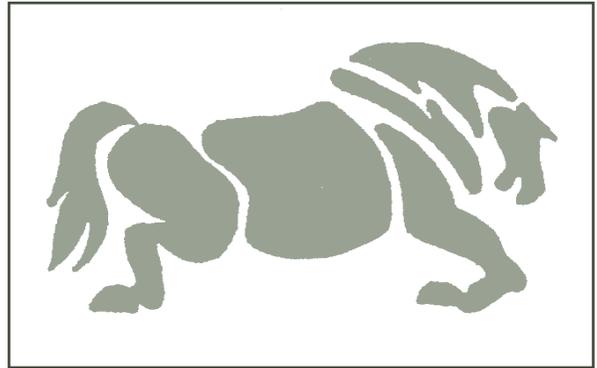
**Another technique to help in the placement of features is to first fold the paper in half, and then in half again. Open it. The fold lines will help to place the features of the face in the correct place.**



# Art Techniques

## Paper Prints / Collagraphs

*Paper prints or collagraphs are a fun and easy way to introduce printmaking into the classroom.*



### You will need:

pencils & scrap paper  
water soluble printing ink  
heavy sturdy cardboard  
brayer or roller  
poster board (or old discarded file folders)  
old spoons (with some care plastic spoons will work)

scissors & paper  
drawing paper  
hole-punches  
inking surfaces (old cookie trays, plastic trays,  
foil covered cardboard)  
glue sticks

### Making the Printing Plate

1. Students should first work out their composition on a piece of paper. Complicated shapes or images, such as a horse with a flying mane and tail, can take longer to cut and glue.
2. Using their drawing (or a photocopy of it) as the pattern, students should cut out the shapes and forms in poster board.
3. Texture or pattern can easily be added by using a hole-punch or scissors to create patterns inside the cut-out shapes. Since the cut-out form will be glued to the cardboard later, more complicated interior spaces can be cut from the outside edge to the inside. Remind students to make sure that these cut edges are tight against each other when they are glued and the cut lines should disappear. Another method is to cut a shape into smaller components. Then reassemble it for gluing, leaving space between the pieces.
4. Students should carefully position their piece(s) on heavy cardboard. When happy with the placement, they can glue down the piece(s) and leave their plate to dry overnight.

### Printing

1. Spread water soluble ink onto inking surface. Roll the ink until it coats the brayer evenly.
2. Using the brayer, ink the plate.
3. Place a clean piece of paper on plate. Carefully rub the back of the paper using the back side of a spoon or hands. Too much pressure can tear the paper.
4. Pull print and dry either flat or by hanging on a line.

### Notes:

1. **Editions, or a limited "press run," can be made from each plate. Prints can then be individually signed and numbered. For example the figure 3/10 written on the outside edge of a print means it is the third print out of ten.**
2. **Trading prints can be fun. They may also be keepsakes. The edition size could be the actual size of the class. Using this technique to create unique valentines, would make Valentine's Day special.**
3. **Consider using the print lesson as a way to illustrate a favorite story, poem, or creative writing. A class story, written and illustrated in sections and bound into a book can be duplicated for each student.**

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