

# Contour Line & Proportion: Blind Contour & Grid Method

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LEARNING OBJECTIVE

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Students will practice accurate observation and proportion using blind contour drawing and the grid method.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

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- paper
- pencil
- ruler
- a mirror (optional, for self-portrait) or your own hand as a subject

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

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1. Without looking at your paper at all, slowly draw the outline of your own hand, or a reflection of your face in a mirror, in one continuous line, keeping your eyes on the subject the entire time — a blind contour drawing.
2. Repeat a second contour drawing, allowing yourself to glance at your paper occasionally, comparing how much more accurate but less expressive it looks.
3. Using a ruler, draw a 4x4 grid of 16 equal boxes lightly over a photo or over your own hand study reference.
4. Draw a second, larger 4x4 grid on a fresh piece of paper, and redraw your hand or face box-by-box, copying only what appears in each corresponding grid square.
5. Compare your blind contour, regular contour, and grid-method drawings side by side and note which felt hardest and which produced the most proportionally accurate result.

## QUESTIONS

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1. What is a 'blind contour drawing,' and what skill does it build?

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2. Why does the grid method help improve proportional accuracy?

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3. Which of your 3 drawings was most proportionally accurate, and why do you think that is?

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4. **How might combining loose contour observation skills with the grid method's accuracy benefit an artist's overall work?**
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