

Composition Planning: Grid & Thumbnail Sketches

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will use grid and thumbnail sketching techniques to finalize an accurate composition plan for the capstone piece.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- ruler
- pencil
- final capstone paper/canvas (blank, unmarked yet)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Draw 3 small thumbnail sketches (about 2x2 inches each) exploring different arrangements of your chosen concept within a rectangle.
2. Select your best thumbnail and use a ruler to divide it into a 3x3 grid (like a tic-tac-toe board).
3. Using the same ruler, lightly draw a matching 3x3 grid in pencil on your final capstone paper/canvas at full size.
4. Transfer your composition from the small thumbnail grid to the large final grid, square by square, sketching lightly in pencil.
5. Once transferred, lightly erase the grid lines (leaving just enough to still see them faintly) so your composition sketch remains clean and ready for the next steps.

QUESTIONS

1. **Why did you choose this particular thumbnail sketch out of your 3 options?**

2. **How did using a grid help you accurately transfer your small sketch to the larger final piece?**

3. **According to the 'rule of thirds' grid technique, where should your focal point ideally be placed for the strongest composition?**

4. What part of your composition are you most confident about, and what part are you still unsure of?
