

1 Line, contour, and gesture – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

Line quality

weighted line

contour line

blind contour

gesture drawing

line of action

Recall

- You already draw lines every day – signatures, doodles, arrows.
- You can tell a fast, scribbled note from a slow, careful one.
- You have traced the edge of your hand on paper at least once.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Line quality

Line quality is how a line looks and feels – thick or thin, dark or light, fast or slow. A **weighted line** grows thicker where a form turns away from the light.

Worked example. Drawing an apple, press harder under the shaded base so the line is thick and dark there, and lighter on the top.

■ 2 Contour drawing

A **contour line** follows the edges of a form slowly and carefully. In **blind contour** you draw without looking at the paper – it trains your eye.

Worked example. Looking only at your hand (not the page), move the pencil as slowly as your eye moves along each finger's edge.

■ 3 Gesture drawing

A **gesture drawing** captures movement in seconds. Find the **line of action** – one curve for the whole pose – before any detail.

Worked example. For a running figure, draw one long curve from head to back foot first; the legs and arms hang off it.

Watch out: A confident line comes from the shoulder and elbow, not just the fingers. Re-tracing the same edge many times looks timid, not careful.

Practice

2.1 What is a weighted line? [2]

2.2 What is the difference between contour drawing and gesture drawing? [2]

2.3 Why do you draw the line of action first in a gesture drawing? [2]

2.4 Name one thing blind contour drawing trains. [2]

2.5 State one feeling each: a horizontal line and a diagonal line. [2]
