

Northern Virginia Community College
Loudoun Campus

ART 131-Fundamentals of Design 1
Monday & Wednesday, 7 - 9-15 pm

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Line Exercises

Contract: Using the template provided, place four different kinds of lines in the first row of squares. (horizontal, vertical, diagonal, curvilinear) Then invent a series of variations on each line in the columns below.

Materials: template is provided, sharpie pens

Approach to the process:

Using the template provided, explore ways in which four straight, four curving, four jagged lines can be used to create simple compositions. In the final column of rectangles, use all four types of lines to create more complex compositions. Try working with very different kinds of line. As you work your way down each column, try to increase the power of the original line.

Four lines are used in each of the 16 compositions in this exercise. In the first 12 studies, a single type of line is repeated four times. In the final four studies, three different types of line are used in each composition.

Purpose:

1. What are the advantages of using just one type of line in a composition?
2. What are the advantages of working with different kinds of lines
3. What is the effect of variations in line weight
4. How can line velocity be increased or decreased
5. To what extent can multiple lines create the illusion of movement or the illusion of space?

What you should be thinking while working on this project:

1. How does line continuity or discontinuity add or detract from design?
2. What happens when a line appears to extend beyond the format edge?
3. How can lines be used to move our eyes around the composition?
4. Understand Static and Dynamic Lines.

FORM: The organization or inventive arrangement of all the visual elements according to the principles of design.

Elements: Line, Shape, Color, Contrast and Texture.

PRINCIPLES:

- ***Variety:*** variations on a theme or strong contrast of elements

- **Harmony:** pleasing arrangements of elements
- **Balance:** distribution of the visual weight of design elements
- **Dominance:** the most obvious elements
- **Economy:** using only what is needed, eliminating distracting elements
- **Proportion & Scale:** **proportion** deals with the relationship to the human figure; **scale** deals with the relationship between size of an image and size of its surroundings.
- **Movement:** any visual element that causes the eye to travel across the surface of a composition. For example: diagonal lines tend to suggest movement

Questions to ask yourself while working on this project: These questions are related to the final critique sheet handout.

1. What elements are you using in this project?
2. How many elements did you use?
3. What is the relationship between the elements? How were they used, and with what media?
4. What design principles are prevalent in this project?
5. Do the elements and principles achieve a unified piece of artwork?
6. Is it inventive?
7. Is it obvious?
8. ?) Is your project clean and is the presentation excellent?
9. What problems are you solving during this project?
10. Do you think you were successful in solving the project?
11. What concepts did you explore while working on this project?
12. Is there an idea that explains the work?

Veto: I reserve the right to make change on project assessments.