

Northern Virginia Community College  
Loudoun Campus

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

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### THE PARTS OF THE PUZZLE Assignment #6

#### Contract:

Working with a curvilinear shape, line, and a simple rectilinear shape, create 4 compositions within a 3:4 format. Any 3:4 relationship will work: 3" x 4", 6" x 8", 9" x 12."

#### Materials:

black, white construction paper, painted gray paper, Bristol board, rubber cement, acrylic paint.

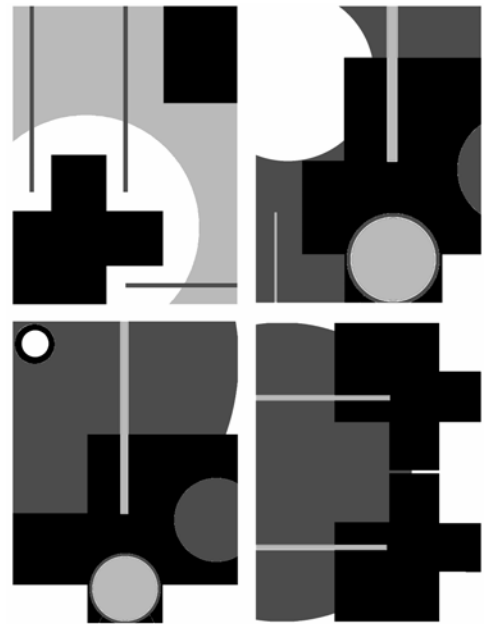
#### Approach to the process:

First, be sure you understand the game rules:

- Any type of curvilinear shape can be used, from a circle to an amoeba. Any type of line can be used.
- You must use the same three components in each study. Thus, if you choose a jagged line for the first study, a jagged line must be used in all subsequent studies. If you choose a square for the first study, a square must appear in every study.
- Any component can be multiplied as needed. For example, you could have two squares, two circles, and two straight lines in one of your studies. However, do not exceed a total of six positive shapes.
- Any component can be enlarged or reduced as needed.
- Any shapes that extend beyond the boundary should be cut off.

There are two equally effective approaches to this assignment:

- Loosely draw at least 12 boxes, roughly 1.5" x 2" in size. Sketch in various compositions, each using the curvilinear shape, line, and rectilinear shape you have chosen. Choose the best six studies to refine and complete, using construction paper and or colored pencils. For best results, just work with solid colors.
- Cut out at least 20 of your curvilinear shape, 20 lines, and 20 rectilinear shapes in various sizes. Play around for a while, experimenting with various ways to relating the shapes. Then organize them to create the six compositions required.



**Purpose:**

This assignment requires imaginative thinking within strict limitations. How many designs can be made from such limited source material? Can additional shapes be created through careful use of the negative shapes? This assignment puts you in a pretty tight box. How can you break out of this box?

**What you should be thinking while working on this project:**

Be aware of the interplay between negative and positive shapes, proximity, dominance, subordination and balance to help refine your compositional skills.

**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.