

## Thumb and nature observation drawings

**Objective:** I can create a work in graphite from observation.

### Supplies

Thumb project:  
Paper – Final drawing to fill a page in a sketch book or journal.  
Medium: graphite pencil  
Must have a border – 1" or 1 ½ "

Nature project

Paper: 12 x 18 drawing paper  
Medium: graphite  
Subject: something from nature such as a shell, leaf, twig, bark, twig with leaves, bone etc.  
No border.

# Project

#### Step one:

In your sketch book, fill a page with contour drawings of your thumb and the nature object. Try to draw the object life size and then larger. Draw the object in different positions. Vary the line thickness. The objective of this exercise is to learn about your objects and to really "see" them.

#### Step two:

Composition sketches. The objective of this exercise is to work out all of the trouble spots before work begins on the final paper.

A. On another sketch book page, create rectangles in portrait and landscape formats. The rectangles should not be smaller than two inches.

B. Draw your objects in the rectangles changing the size and placement. Search for the best layout of your objects.

C. Remember to:

1. Avoid the center of the page.
2. Don't cut anything in half.
3. No kissing of the object and the half lines.
4. Have variety in the negative spaces.
5. Focus down and single out areas of interest.
6. Crop the image to emphasize the area of interest.

D. Use shading methods to record the light source, highlights, body shadows and cast shadows.

Focus down: To single out or zoom in to an area that has lots of interest.

Crop: To cut or trim the image so that it fits the format.

**Step three:** Get approval of layout before beginning.

- A. Sketch out the drawing on the final paper.
- B. Render the object in graphite.