

Visual Art - Grade 5 Lesson 4 – Contour Line Drawing
CALIFORNIA ARTS STANDARDS CREATING-Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. 5.VA:Cr2.1 Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.
OBJECTIVES • Identify and describe observational drawing. • Discuss observational drawing as an artistic skill and a life skill. • Explore contour line drawing.
VOCABULARY • Observational drawing: drawing done while looking at an object, figure or scene • Contour: an outline, especially one representing or bounding the shape or form of something • Contour line drawing: drawing done in one continuous line representing the outline of an object, sometimes called a “blind” contour drawing
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS • 24” to 36” plastic coated wire, one piece per student • one large item to draw (e.g., backpack, plant, stuffed animal, chair, guitar) • 12” x 18” drawing paper, one per student • medium point, black felt tip markers, one per student
WARM UP (10 minutes) • Sing the “Arts Smart” song. Song demo track: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1P6j_ZPFggSX2pBsl7X5TVo_C4SJaPkof • Distribute one piece of plastic coated wire to each student. • Warn students that the wire will be used then collected. • Instruct the students to use the wire to create a familiar object (e.g., tree, pencil, chair, hairbrush). • Allow 2 minutes to finish the wire sculpture. • Share the “wire drawings” with partners, in small groups or the whole class. • <u>Discussion questions:</u> ◦ What object is the wire drawing depicting? ◦ What was the most difficult part of the object to represent in the wire drawing? • Remind students of the term “essence” from the last lesson. ◦ How does the wire line capture the “essence” of the object? • Instruct students to straighten out the wires and collect them to be used with another class.

LESSON

(35 minutes)

- Move desks and tables as easily as possible for students to face the center of the classroom.
- Choose a large common object (e.g., backpack, plant, stuffed animal, lamp, chair, guitar, etc.).
- Place the object in a central area of the classroom up high enough so all students can see it clearly.
- Explain contour line drawing as a type of drawing that is sometimes called “blind” contour line drawing. It is different from the drawing students are used to, but fun!
- Post the following rules for Contour Line Drawing. See the end of the lesson.
- Look at the object only.
- Do not look at your paper.
- Create a continuous line...Keep the marker on the paper.
- Demonstrate how to do a contour line drawing on the chart paper or under the document camera so that all students can see.
 1. Turn your head (and body if possible) away from the chart paper or drawing paper, and face the object as you draw.
 2. Place the marker on the paper and slowly move your eyes over the edges of the object.
 3. As your eyes move, move the marker creating a line that matches the edges or contour of the object.
 4. Do not look at the paper, only at the object.
 5. Do not remove the marker from the surface of the paper. Keep one continuous line during this process.
 6. Draw for no more than 1 to 2 minutes.
 7. Lift your marker wherever you are in the process and take a look at what you created.



8. Ask the class if they can identify what parts of the object you were drawing.
9. Place the marker at the spot where you ended and continue the demonstration, reinforcing the continuous line and slow observation procedure.

10. When you are confident that the students know how to begin this exercise, stop the demonstration.

11. Explain that contour line drawing is an exercise that forces the artist to visually examine an object and draw only what is actually seen. This procedure builds observational skills.

- Distribute one 12" x 18" piece of drawing paper and one marker to each student.
- Sit students in such a way that their heads and bodies are facing the object and the drawing paper is behind them or away from their line of vision so that they must turn away from their paper as they draw.
- Allow students 2 minutes to begin a contour line drawing of the displayed object.
- While students are drawing, talk to them about slowly moving their eyes along the edge of the object and moving their marker at the same speed copying the line they are seeing.
- Watch the students' eyes and remind them to look only at the object.
- Repeat this exercise several times on the same drawing paper, either continuing their original drawing or completing additional attempts
- Write the artists name in the lower right or left hand corner of the work of art.

REFLECTION/CLOSING

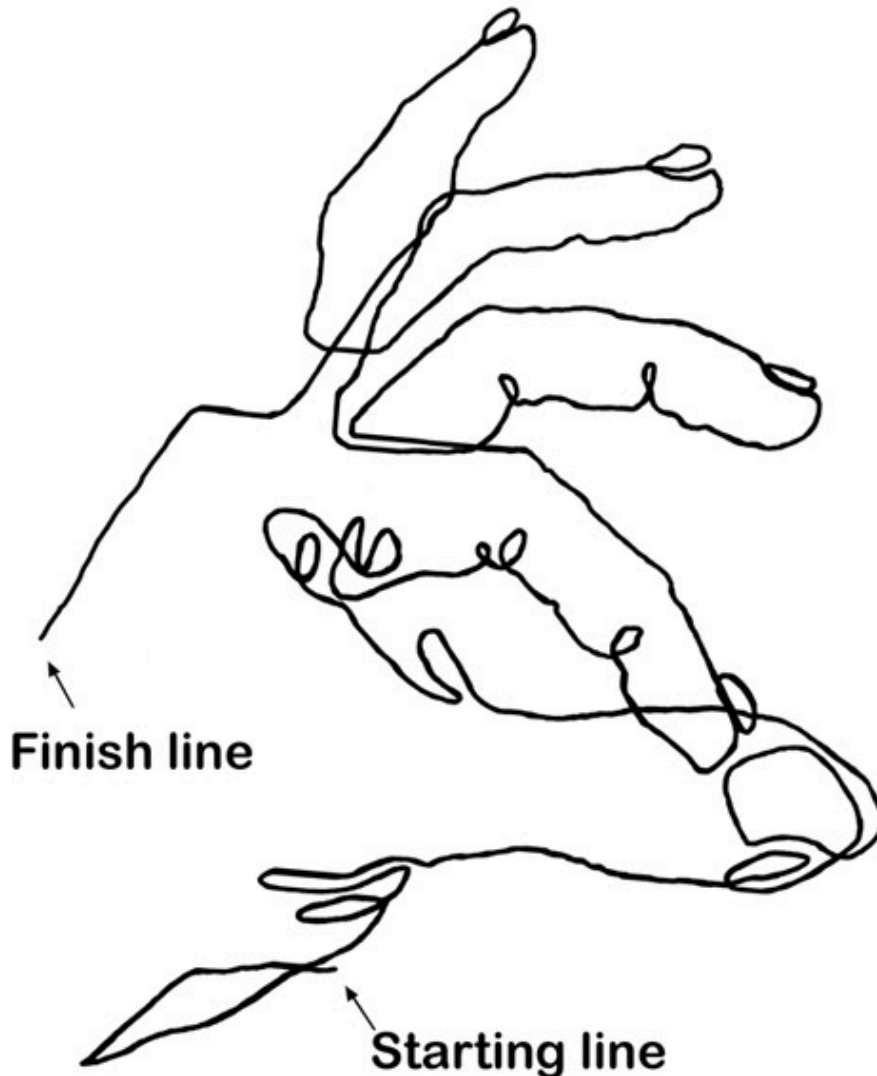
(5 minutes)

- Discussion questions:
 - How are the contour line drawings and the wire sculpture alike?
 - How are they different?



Contour Line Drawing

- Look at the object only.
- Do not look at your paper.
- Create a continuous line...Keep the marker on the paper.



Arts Education Project

Date:	Classroom Teacher:	Discipline Visual Art
VAPA Teacher:	Room #:	Lesson 4 Grade 5
Lesson Objective(s): • Identify and describe observational drawing. • Discuss observational drawing as an artistic skill and a life skill. • Explore contour line drawing.		
Key Vocabulary: • Observational drawing: drawing done while looking at an object, figure or scene • Contour: an outline, especially one representing or bounding the shape or form of something • Contour line drawing: drawing done in one continuous line representing the outline of an object, sometimes called a “blind” contour drawing		
 VAPA TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS. To see today's lesson: https://sites.google.com/sandi.net/artseducationproject		