

Arlington Public Schools- Middle School and High School Sketchbook Drawing Suggestions

- Drape a jacket over the back of a chair and do a continuous contour line drawing that includes only part of the jacket and part of the chair. Never lift your drawing instrument from the page
- Throw a bunch of potato chips (not less than 8) on the table and create a composition that reinforces negative and positive shapes created by the potato chips and space around them. Eat one potato chip, rearrange the remaining chips and do another drawing. Repeat this until all the chips are gone.
- Crumple a piece of white paper and without using outlines define the form of the paper using a wide range of light and dark values.
- Set up three different vegetables on a piece of tin foil and using colored pencils create a cubist style work (see Cezanne, Picasso, Braque)
- Draw a very small object but change its scale to appear very large in an invented or real space
- Create a cross section of the earth
- Draw an object that appears to be moving very fast.
- Metamorphosis: Draw two objects. One has to be an animal and one has to be mechanical. Draw the animal at the top of a page and the mechanical object at the bottom of the page, leaving space for additional drawings between them. Add additional drawings between them that show how one object morphs to become the other.
- Set your own rule that you must obey when you make a drawing. For example: Make an abstract drawing that lasts exactly 15 minutes (continuously drawing for 15 minutes) and lines can never intersect. You can not lift the pencil off the page for the entire 15 minutes. See the work of artist, Kevin Townsend.
- Draw people from direct observation at a coffee shop, a musician performing, or dancers dancing,
- Draw something falling
- Draw a detailed version of anything using a magnifying glass or microscope
- Draw an abstract interpretation of a poem without any realistic rendering
- Draw a section of dishes in the sink, drainboard or dishwasher Illustrate a dream
- Draw how you imagine you would look 50 years from now, including technological advancements attached to you
- Draw an animal exercising at a health club
- Choose an artist (any media) from an article or review in the magazine Art in America, and draw your own interpretation of the main idea the artist is conveying
- Cover a page in your sketchbook with a layer of smudged charcoal and do an observation complete drawing with an eraser
- Combine three different media in an observational drawing of a landscape looking out of your window and include both inside and outside areas
- Draw the movement of large imagined ocean waves