

# Self-Portrait

## Materials:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Eraser
- Mirror

## Objective:

- Use some simple rules to draw a realistic self-portrait.

## Procedure:

1. Before beginning, look around you at all the faces you see. Everyone has basically the same combination of features. Faces are composed of a pair of eyes, one nose, one mouth, two ears and a thatch of hair. It is because of these similarities that we recognise each other as human beings. But that is where the similarity stops and people become individuals. Everyone has a slightly different arrangement of nose, eyes and mouth. Notice how some people have long thin faces, some have rather round faces. Other faces are narrow at the bottom and wider across the forehead. Younger people have very smooth skin and older people have lines around their eyes and mouth. Some people have small smiles and others have big, wide smiles. Often it is the hair that makes a definite statement about a person.
2. First look in the mirror and decide if your face is basically round or oval shaped. Is your skin smooth or lined? Does your hair fall over your forehead or is it pulled away from your face?
3. As you look in the mirror think about the proportions of your face. Your eyes are approximately halfway from the top of your head to your chin. The distance between the eyes is approximately as wide as one of the eyes. The mouth is in the lower quarter of the face. The ears are located roughly between the midpoint of the eye and the midline of the lips.
4. Draw an oval to represent your face. It should take up most of your paper and be about the same size as your real head. Draw a cylindrical shape under your head to represent your neck. It should be almost as wide as your head. Remember that your head is the heaviest part of your body. Therefore, it needs a good strong neck to hold it up. Draw two curved lines to represent your shoulders. They should be under the cylinder. Make these lines go off the paper. Your shoulders are wide, and they should appear to be big and strong.



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5. Draw a light line across the midpoint of the oval that you have drawn for your face. On the line, draw your eyes. Remember that there should not be more than one eye width between them. Look again at the mirror. Are you drawing what your eyes look like or what you think they look like? Divide the space between your eyes and your chin in half. Draw another light line across the oval. Under this line draw your mouth. Look again at the mirror. Is your mouth large and full or are your lips thin?
6. Look at your nose in the mirror. Compare the size of your nose to your mouth. Approximately where is it located in relation to your eyes and your mouth? Does your nose have a line all around it? It doesn't and you do not have to draw a line around it. You can define the sides of your nose with shading. The bridge of your nose is the highest point on your face and catches the most light. It will stay the lightest and the sides of the nose will be shaded in.
7. Begin to draw your hair. Carefully draw in the hair that you see. It makes a statement that sets you apart from everyone else. Draw it carefully. Have you combed your hair lately? Even if you have, notice that the hairs do not all go the same way. Draw what you see, not what you think you see.
8. Add shading to define your features. Notice the shadows on your mouth, under your eyes, and on the sides of your nose. Notice that the lightest places are the bridge of your nose and the tip of your chin. Make all other areas shades of grey. Look at how the light changes the look of your hair. How can you shade this to make it look the same way? Shade the area on your neck under your face slightly darker than your face because it is shaded by your chin.

