

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Composition for Drawing I

Sarah Knill Resource: *Drawing Essentials* by Deborah Rockman

## Definitions

*Composition:* \_\_\_\_\_

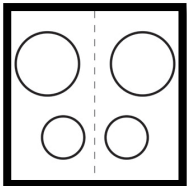
*Elements:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Positive Space:* \_\_\_\_\_

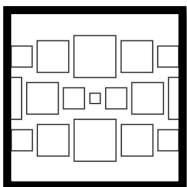
*Negative Space:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Format:* \_\_\_\_\_

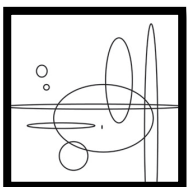
## Principles of Composition



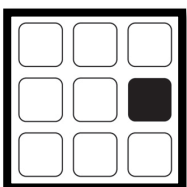
Balance



Harmony (Repetition, Rhythm, Pattern)



Variety

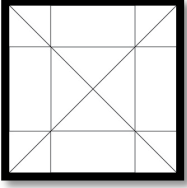


Dominance



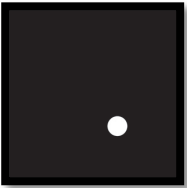
Movement

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Proportion

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Economy

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Unity

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### **Compositional Considerations**

Size

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Position

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Direction

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Number

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Density

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Interval

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Similarity

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Proximity

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Continuity

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Closure

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## **Viewfinder**

Just like the viewfinder on a camera.

**Your viewfinder must have the SAME PROPORTIONS as your \_\_\_\_\_!**

Your viewfinder will:

1. Block out visual distractions.
2. Give boundaries to the negative space.
3. Give you a preview of how forms will fill your format.
4. Establish constant verticals and horizontals to compare against other angles in your composition.
5. Help you determine if a vertical or horizontal format is best.
6. Help with cropping.

## **Additional Compositional Considerations**

### *Placement of forms*

1. Be purposeful with allocations of positive and negative space and how the forms you are drawing occupy your format.
2. Be mindful of the outermost contours. Are they active or subdued? Is there an appropriate amount of breathing room around the outermost contours?
3. Avoid “shared edges” either between the edge of the page and the edge of an object or between individual forms.
4. How do you want your viewer’s eye to move throughout the piece?
5. Avoid cutting the composition or objects in half. Unequal divisions are much more dynamic.

### *Type of Space*

1. Shallow (vertical and horizontal elements)
2. Deep (diagonal elements)
3. Ambiguous

### *Viewpoint*

1. Consider alternative & unusual viewpoints for interest.
2. Position of your light source.
3. Options for developing or editing your environment.

## **Thumbnails**

1. Allows you to explore multiple solutions: placement of objects, proportions, lighting, format orientation.
2. Small and can be done quickly.
3. Should be proportional to the format of your final piece.
4. Use your viewfinder.
5. You may choose to draw more expansive views and crop.

## The Golden Section

1. AKA: The Golden Mean, The Golden Proportion, The Golden Ratio, The Golden Rectangle, the Divine Proportion.
2. Proportion of 1 to 1.618

