Portrait Practice

6th grade
Step one: The HEAD. Draw a large head shape on your paper.

Draw large. Fill your paper

Remember!
Heads are shaped like eggs, not circles.
Step two: THE EYES. Eyes are halfway down the face. So use your ruler to divide your head in half with a horizontal line. Draw lightly (you may want to erase it later).
Step Two cont.
If you look at someone face on, they will have room for five eyes across the front of their face! You can divide the horizontal line into five equal spaces to figure out how big to make the eyes.

Draw five eyes of equal size.
Step Two cont.
Close-up of eyes. Here are a few ideas for drawing eyes...

Practice drawing eye shapes

Watch out! for these common mistakes
- Floating iris
- Pupil too big
- Scary eyelashes
- Pupil too small
- No eyelid
Step Three: The NOSE.

The size of the nose depends on the person. The bottom of the nose is often as wide as the inside corners of the eyes. So you can draw two lines down from the inside corners of the eyes.

1. Draw two lines down from the inside corners of the eyes.
2. Draw another line halfway between the eye line and the chin.
Now you have a "nose box"—draw the nose!

Draw another line halfway between the eye line and the chin.
Step Three cont.

Close-up of noses. Here are a few ideas for drawing noses...

Practice drawing nose shapes

Watch out! for these common mistakes

- Oinky pig nose (too round)
- No nostrils
- The profile nose (save it for profiles)
Step Four: The MOUTH.
Draw another line half way between the nose and the chin.

Mouths are right above this line. The width of the mouth depends on the person’s expression. But the corners of a relaxed mouth line up with the middle of the eye. Draw two vertical lines down from the pupils of the eye.

Now draw the mouth!
Step Five: EARS.

Ears are bigger than many people think! They stretch from the eyes to below the nose. Use the horizontal line you first drew for the eyes to line up the top of the ears. They will end between the bottom of the nose and the mouth.
Step Six: EYEBROWS. Eyebrows tell a lot about a person’s mood. They come in all different sizes and shapes (and some people pluck them out!) A gentle arch over the eyes should do for a relaxed face.

They stretch over the whole eye. They are wider in the middle of the face and get thinner.
Step Seven: The NECK. Most people draw the neck too thin. A head weighs eight pounds so necks are big and strong! Start at the ears and gently curve in then out again.
Step Eight: SHOULDERs. If you have room on your paper you can draw shoulders or part of the shoulders. We actually have room for three heads on our shoulders!

Make the shoulders wide enough so you could fit another head on each shoulder.

Remember: THREE HEADS!

Draw a gentle curve for each shoulder.
Step Nine: HAIR. Last but not least, HAIR! You could stop now if your subject has no hair. But if he or she does, remember where the hairline is.

A hairline is where your hair starts sprouting. The hairline is NOT the top of the head!

And try different hair styles!
1. Portrait takes up a large portion of the project paper.
2. Portrait uses the rules of placement for features (eyes, nose, mouth).
3. Portrait is broken up into 20-25 different shapes.
4. Each feature has a different color within the shapes.
5. Craftsmanship and Effort: took time to develop finished product and did not rush? Good use of class time? Neat, clean & complete? Skillful use of the art tools & media?

Add up the score from all 5 and MULTIPLY by 2. That’s the grade you give yourself.