

# Sketchbook Workshop Resources

Using Sketchbooks to Deepen Learning



## Basics for Classroom Sketchbooks

Sketchbooks can be used as a vehicle for developing:

- Creativity
- Analytical thinking
- Imagination
- Self-confidence
- Higher level problem solving

Sketchbooks in the classroom can be structured or open ended. Once a week, or once a day...following a specific prompt in class, or just free time to draw.

Whatever works best for your classroom. The purpose of a sketchbook is:

- Focus on process, not final product
- Freedom of expression
- Great tool to see growth/learning over time

## Quick Engagement

Sketchbook time can be daily or weekly and can be just 5, 10, or 15 minutes. You can use sketchbooks as a transition time tool between lunch/recess/etc. Repeat these exercises with different objects.

**Just give kids a little time to be creative and draw.**

### Creative Shape

Start with one shape what can it turn into? How many can you think up in a set amount of time?

### Left/Right Hand

Draw the same object with your left & right hand.

### Don't Look Down

Draw a simple object but don't look at the page. Concentrate intensely on the object as you draw. Trace the object with your eyes.

### Close Your Eyes

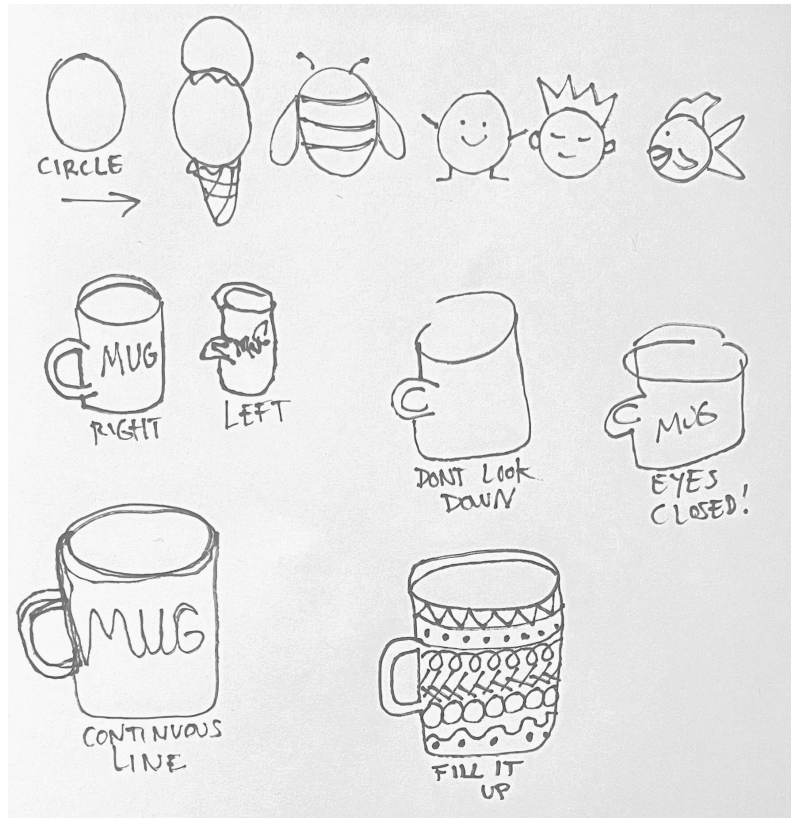
Draw an object with your eyes closed, from memory. This is extra fun if you try to draw your friend or table partner.

### Continuous Line

Draw a simple object without lifting up your pencil.

### Fill it up

Fill up a page, a block letter, or a simple shape with patterns.



## Create A Character

Come up with an imaginary character, give it a name! Build story/relationship with the character. Get silly and have fun using your imagination, build a world for the character.

You can give students a prompt, like:

- What's their name?
- What are they doing today?
- What \_\_\_\_\_ do they like?
- How do they feel about \_\_\_\_\_?
- What's their favorite color?
- Did they grow an extra limb today?
- Do they enjoy (subject/story)? Why/why not?

Try to avoid showing the kids your own doodles, or they will just copy yours. Let them think up their own monster, object or shape and add to it.



For younger kids, start with a simple shape. Add arms, legs, hair, etc...



Image by Kimberley Fahey

## Practice Composition

Composition is all about placement and balance. How to make your artwork stand out, and be interesting. Practice different compositions in your sketchbook with the observation frames.

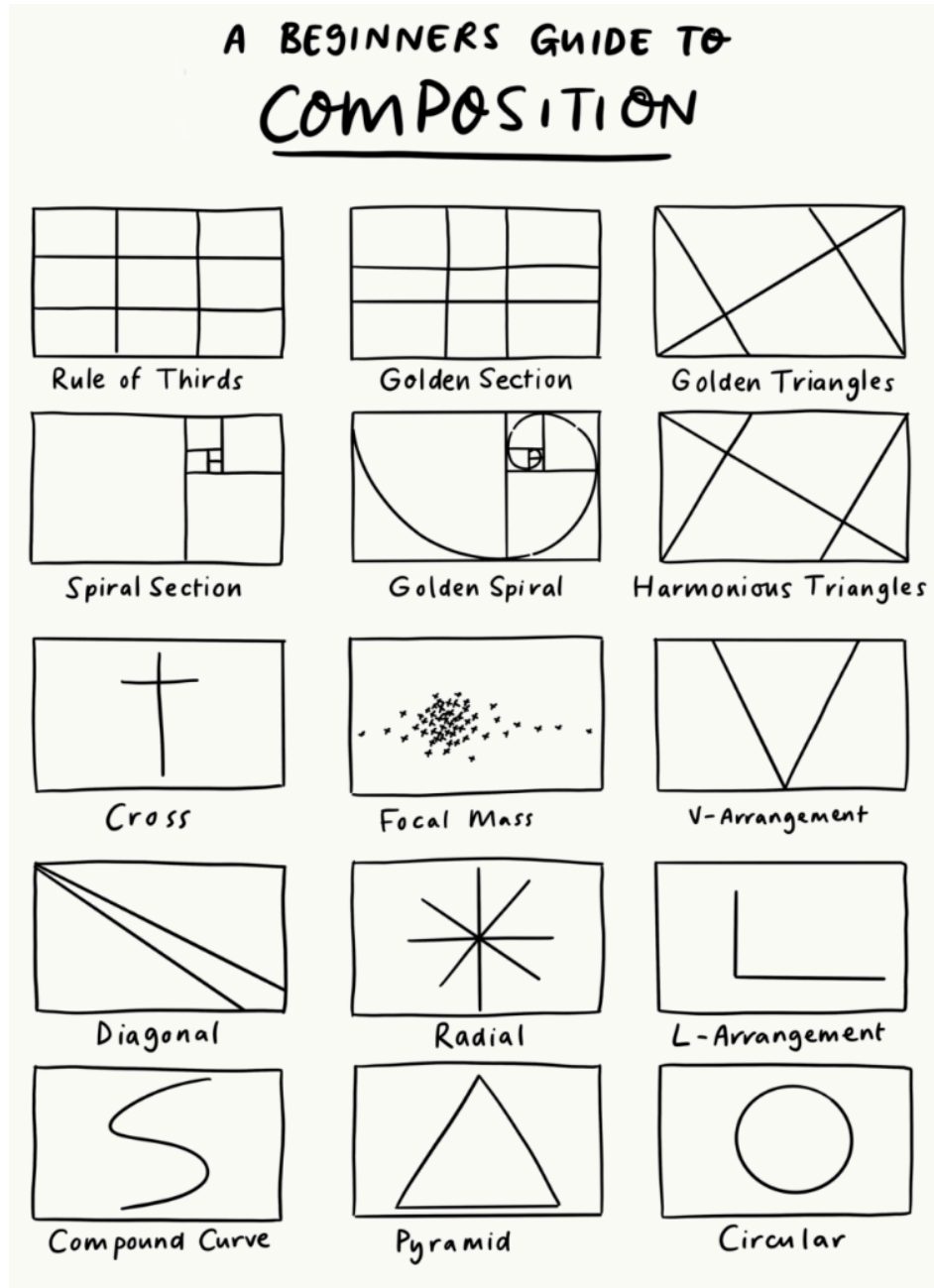


Image from [www.emmacrownie.com](http://www.emmacrownie.com)

## Using Observation Frames

You can make an observation frame by cutting a small rectangle or square into a colored piece of paper. You can also have students make a pocket in their sketchbook to keep the paper frame out of paper and tape. This frame can help students draw any landscape or object multiple times, in different ways.

Observation frames can help make incorporating science, math, reading/writing into the classroom easy.

For example, use the observation frames when drawing subjects from class - salmon in science class.

Here are some steps for how to incorporate vocabulary and deeper level thinking into drawing:

- 1) Observe
- 2) Draw
- 3) Label
- 4) Question



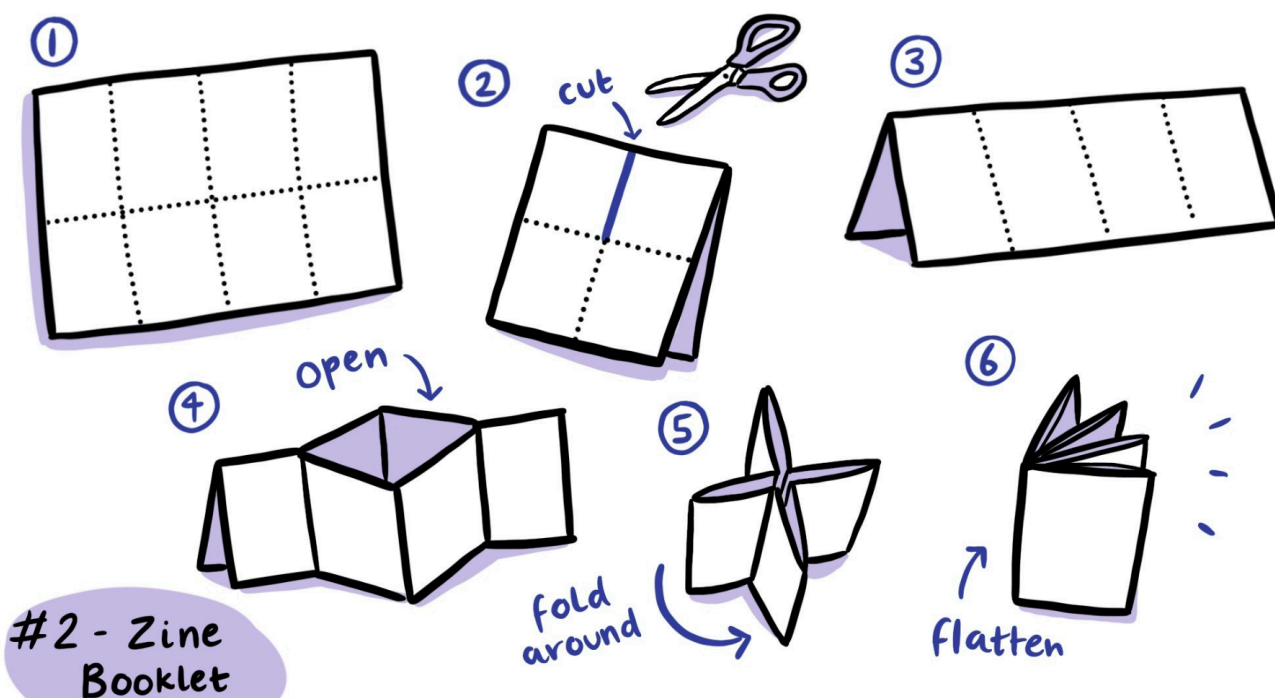
Image from National Gallery of Art

## Create Your Own Sketchbook

If you don't have a sketchbook for each student to use, or you've run out of sketchbook pages don't worry! Students can create their own. Here are 3 ideas:

1. Make a sketchbook using **4-5 sheets of white paper** (9"x12" drawing paper or 8.5"x11" printer paper, lined notebook paper will also work in a pinch), **1 sheet of colored construction paper** and **15" of string**, yarn or ribbon.  
→Tools needed: **scissors, markers** (pencils or crayons) to draw a cover design.
2. Make a small sketchbook using **blank index cards** and a **binder ring** and **hole reinforcement stickers (optional)**.  
→Tools needed: **hole punch**
3. Make a zine out of **1 sheet of white printer paper**.  
→Tools needed: scissors

<https://savannah-storm.com/blog/3-ways-to-make-a-sketchbook>



3 ways to make a simple sketchbook · savannah-storm.com