

# L7 Practice Sheet: Composition & Visual Design

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## LESSON GOALS

- Plan and thumbnail compositions before committing to a final drawing
  - Direct the viewer's eye using focal points, contrast, and visual flow
  - Understand how positive and negative space create visual balance
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## 4-WEEK PLAN OVERVIEW

### Week 1: Thumbnail Studies

*Fill pages with small, rough thumbnails exploring different arrangements of the same subject.*

### Week 2: Focal Points & Contrast

*Practice isolating one area of high contrast while keeping everything else subdued.*

### Week 3: Compositional Formats

*Explore portrait, landscape, and square formats — how each format shapes your decisions.*

### Week 4: Full Compositions

*Apply thumbnail planning to complete finished drawings with deliberate compositional structure.*

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## KEY CONCEPTS IN THIS LESSON

- Rule of Thirds — Dividing the frame into thirds horizontally and vertically. Placing subjects at intersections creates more dynamic, engaging compositions than centering.
  - Focal Points & Eye Flow — Every composition needs a clear hierarchy — one primary focal point the eye lands on first, supported by secondary points that keep the viewer engaged.
  - Thumbnail Planning — Small, rough sketches used to explore multiple compositional options before committing. The fastest way to find the strongest arrangement.
  - Positive & Negative Space — Positive space is your subject. Negative space is everything around it. The shape of the negative space is just as designed as the subject itself.
  - Edge Control — Hard edges create focus; soft edges recede. Managing where edges are sharp versus lost controls attention and creates depth.
  - The Picture Plane — The flat surface of your drawing is a window into imaginary space. Understanding the picture plane governs all decisions about scale, placement, and depth.
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## DAILY SKETCHBOOK PRACTICE

