

Drawing Form

- OBJECTIVE** Contour and cross-contour lines are vital to helping you illustrate form. By feeling objects with your eyes and translating what you see with thick and thin lines your drawings will begin to exhibit even greater dimension and character. Close observation and the skillful use of line will help you to render shapes, forms and surface details.
- MATERIALS**
- 19" x 24" drawing paper
 - charcoal pencil
 - kneaded eraser
- GRADING** 20 points (5 points for timely completion + 5 points for use of cross-contour lines + 5 points for varying line thickness + 5 points for creating areas of emphasis)
- INSTRUCTIONS**
- 1) Find an interesting tree with a large trunk and thick branches. Begin by drawing the contour of the tree. You should avoid drawing leaves and small branches. Observe the negative shapes closely and add them to your drawing.
 - 2) Draw the contour of the tree a second time. Begin to connect the outline with cross-contour lines that describe the round surface of the trunk and branches. Bark and texture on the tree are helpful indicators of the tree's form and often function like cross-contour lines. Don't simply cover the tree in your drawing with a grid. Meaningfully "pick and choose" cross-contour lines and vary their thickness. Experiment with drawing lines in different places. Finding the "right" lines will come naturally with time. Remember to let the entire drawing evolve at an even pace. In other words, don't concentrate on one area for too long a period of time. Work on seeing the "big picture" well as the details. Some areas will naturally develop more contrast through an accumulation of lines.

