

In Class Exercise: FOUR LINES, FOUR TIMES

Problem: Using the template provided, explore ways in which four straight, four curving, and four jagged lines can be used to create simple compositions. In the final column of rectangles, use all four types of lines to create more complex compositions.

Objectives:

- To create simple linear compositions.
- To explore uses of the illusion of movement and the illusion of space.
- To begin to build the habit of making thumbnail sketches.

Materials: Photocopies of the template (card stock recommended); felt pen.

Strategy: Four lines are used in each of the sixteen compositions in this exercise. In the first twelve studies, a single type of line is repeated four times. In the final four studies, three different types of line are used in each composition. Consider:

- What are the advantages of using just one type of line in a composition?
- What are the advantages of working with different kinds of lines?
- What is the effect of variations in line weight?
- How can line velocity be increased or decreased?

Reading: Chapter One: Basic Elements, section - Line.

It has often been said that the first line we draw is the fifth line in the composition. In this exercise, pay particular attention to the four edges of the rectangular format.

Consider:

- How does line continuity or discontinuity affect the design?
- What happens when a line appears to extend beyond the format edge?
- How can lines be used to move our eyes around the composition?

