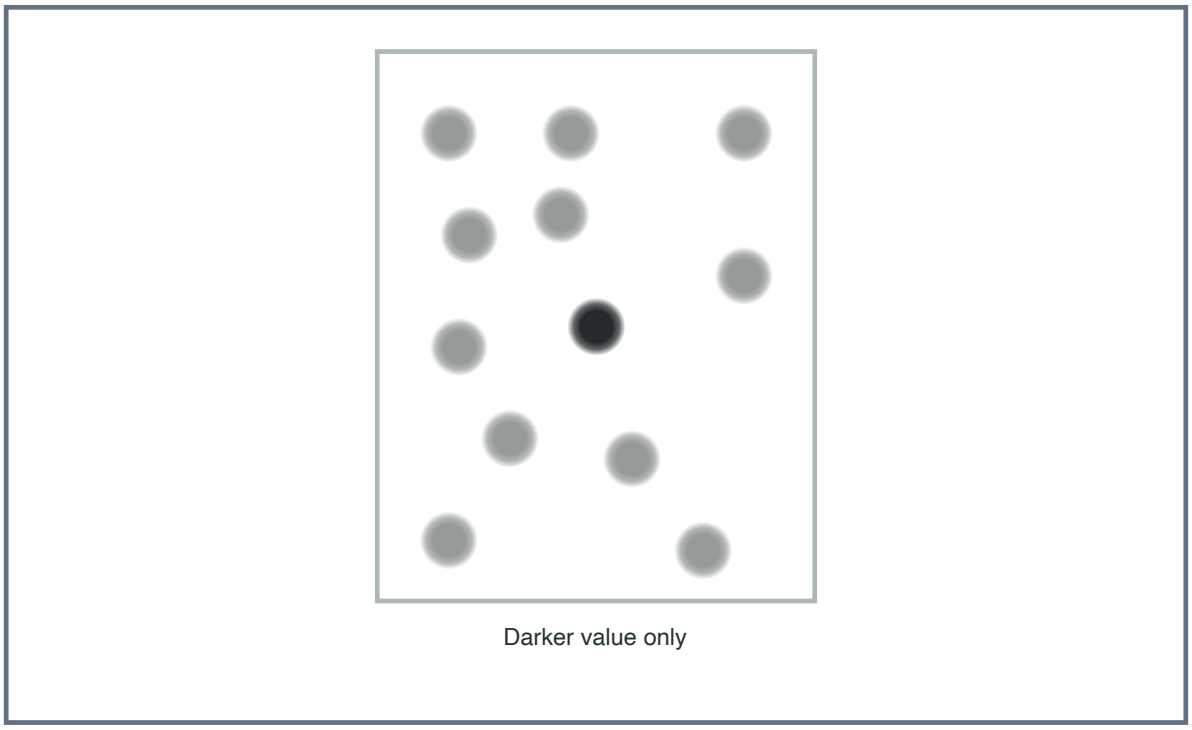
Draw a Focal Point

Original prompt

Task 1: On a field of repeated soft shapes, create one focal point using contrast of value only. Keep every other element the same.



Darker value only

Answer

A field of similar mid-gray shapes with exactly one shape drawn much darker (or much lighter) than the rest. All other shapes stay identical in size, edge, and color so value is the only difference.

Reasoning

Limiting the change to value isolates one contrast variable, which makes the focal point read clearly and teaches how a single difference can direct attention.

Check

Squint at the drawing: the focal shape should still stand out when detail is lost. If more than one shape competes, the value contrast is not isolated.

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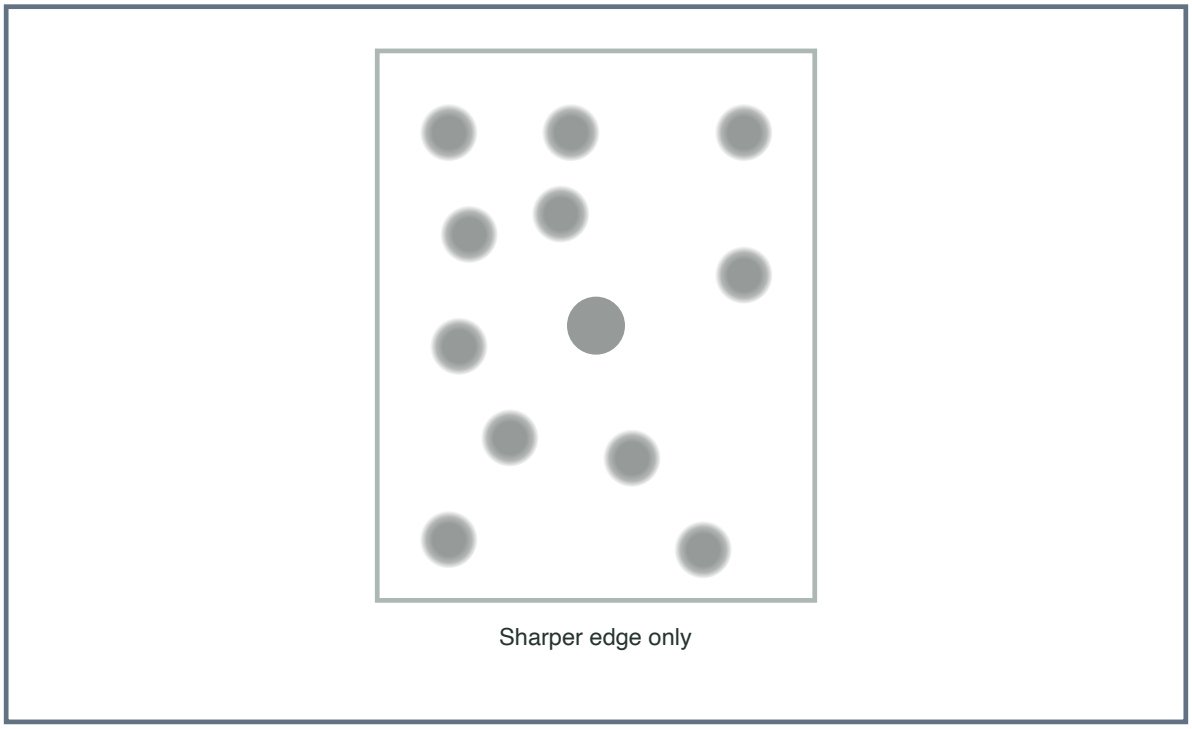
Task 2: Create one focal point using contrast of edge, with one sharp-edged shape among soft-edged shapes.



Sharper edge only

Answer

A field of soft, blurred shapes with one shape drawn with a crisp, hard edge. The sharp shape is the focal point; the soft shapes stay consistent.

Reasoning

Edge contrast draws the eye because sharpness signals importance against a calm, soft field, showing that contrast can be created without changing value or color.

Check

Look at the drawing from a short distance: the crisp shape should be the first thing noticed. If the soft shapes also have hard edges, the contrast is lost.

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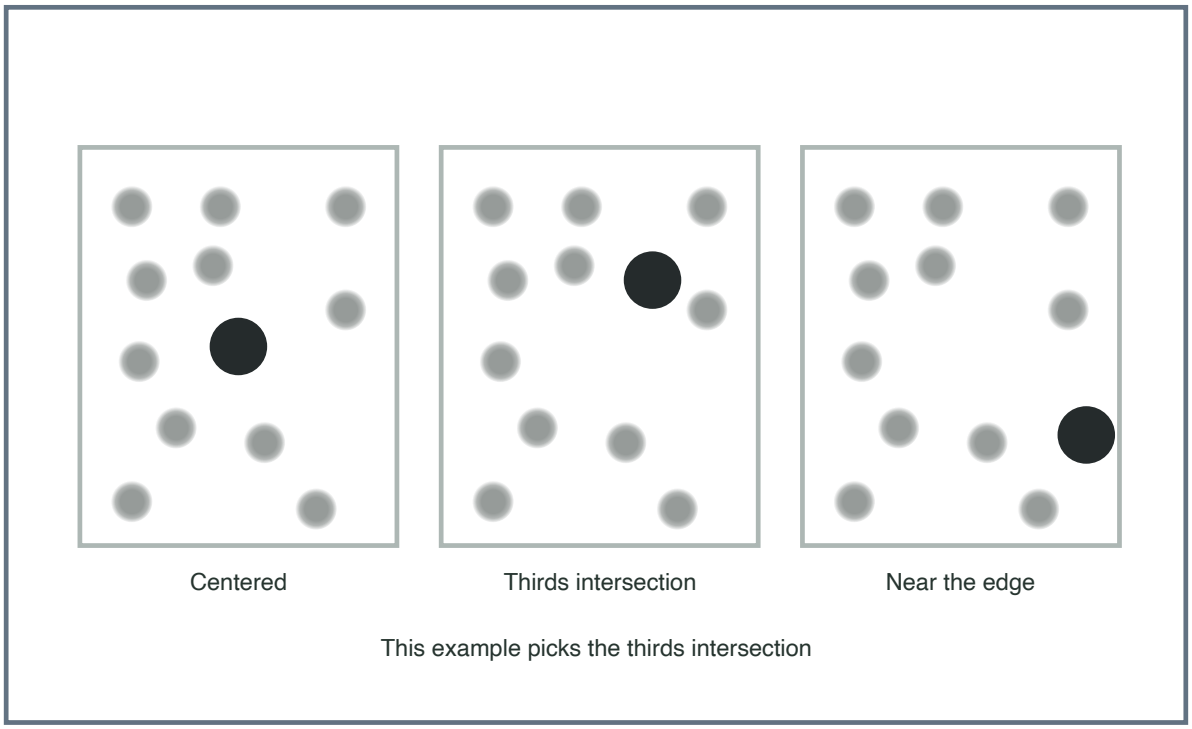
Task 3: Draw the same focal element in three placements on identical fields: centered, on a third-line intersection, and near an edge. Mark which reads strongest.



Answer

Three identical fields, each with the same focal element. This example selects the upper right thirds intersection. There is room around the dark circle, so it draws attention away from the frame. The centered circle emphasizes the middle, and the edge circle gives more weight to the border. Other choices can work when supported by a visible observation.

Reasoning

Holding the focal element constant and changing only placement shows that position alone changes emphasis, which is the placement half of the lesson.

Check

Compare the three versions side by side. Verify the focal circle keeps the same size and value, then describe the result of moving it. Point to the relative spacing when you explain your choice.

Draw a Focal Point

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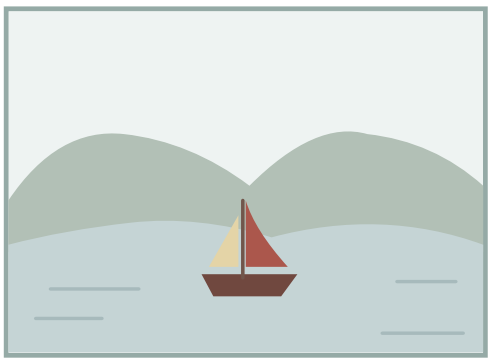
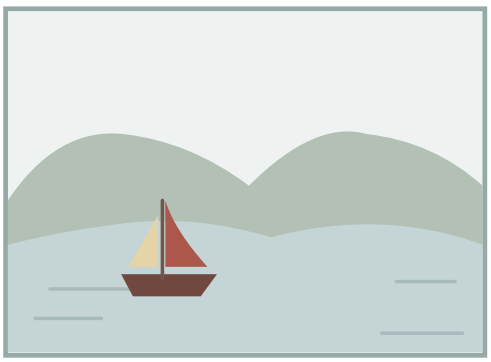
Original prompt

Task 4: Redraw a simple scene from the reference plate, then move its focal point to a new placement and explain how the emphasis changed.



Original centered placement



Moved to the left third

Answer

A redrawn scene with its focal point moved from the original position to a new one. The model moves the red sailboat from the center to the left third. The muted hills and water lines stay in place, and the red sail still stands out. The move puts emphasis on the left, with more open water visible to the right.

Reasoning

Redrawing from a reference practices observation, and moving the focal point practices deliberate placement while keeping the rest of the scene stable for comparison.

Check

Place the original and redrawn versions side by side and note which focal point you see first in each. The written explanation should match what the comparison shows.