Realistic Flower Drawing: Petal Overlap, Proportion, and Tonal Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Plan a flower head with a diameter of 10 units and a stem length of 15 units. State the head-to-stem ratio in simplest form and describe where you would place the head center relative to the frame midline.

Answer: The ratio is 10:15, which simplifies to 2:3. Place the head center slightly above the frame midline so the stem has room below.

Reason: Dividing both values by 5 gives 2:3. Placing the center above the midline balances the composition and leaves space for the stem.

Check: Measure the drawn head and stem on your page and confirm they reduce to 2:3 within your chosen tolerance.

Task 2

A flower has 7 outer petals and 5 middle petals. You draw the middle petals first. Explain why this order causes overlap problems and give a corrected order.

Answer: Drawing middle petals first makes it unclear which petals sit in front, because outer petals should usually sit behind the middle ring. Correct order: draw the 7 outer petals first, then the 5 middle petals crossing over them.

Reason: Overlap order must match depth. Outer petals are typically farther from the viewer, so they are drawn first and crossed by inner petals.

Check: Trace each overlap edge and confirm every middle petal crosses over an outer petal at a defined point.

Task 3

Your four-patch value guide has light, medium-light, medium-dark, and dark. You shade the back petals medium-dark and the front petals light. Explain the problem and give a corrected assignment.

Answer: The back petals are too dark and the front petals too light, which flattens the depth. Correct: back petals medium-light, front petals medium-dark, with dark cast shadows under overlap edges.

Reason: Back petals receive less direct light in this plan, but they should still be lighter than front petals to keep the layering readable.

Check: Squint at the drawing; the front petals should appear darker than the back petals, and each overlap edge should show a dark band.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You planned a head diameter of 9 units but your drawn head measures 12 units on the page. State the difference and one adjustment you would make before shading.

Answer: The difference is 3 units. Reduce the head outline by 3 units, or relabel the plan to 12 units and adjust the stem to keep the chosen ratio.

Reason: Proportion checks compare planned and drawn values. Either the drawing or the plan must change so the ratio stays consistent.

Check: Measure the head again after adjustment and confirm the new value matches the plan or the relabeled ratio.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Petal overlap: every petal has a clear front or back position and overlap edges are visible.
- [ ] Proportion: head diameter and stem length match the labeled ratio within the tolerance you set.
- [ ] Tonal shading: at least three distinct values from the four-patch guide are used consistently.
- [ ] Light source: cast shadows follow one marked direction.
- [ ] Edge control: overlap edges are crisp and turning edges are softened.
- [ ] Alternative conventions allowed: any consistent overlap direction, petal count, or light direction is valid if applied throughout.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?