Signature Drawing: Stroke Construction Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Name 'Leo' on a 40 mm wide line with a 6 mm x-height. There are three letter gaps. Calculate the average gap and state one flow-line decision.

Answer: Average gap = 40 mm divided by 3 = 13.3 mm (to one decimal place). Flow-line decision: connect the end of L directly to the top of e without lifting, then connect e to o.

Reason: Total width divided by number of gaps gives average spacing. The flow line connects letters in one path to reduce lifts.

Check: Measure the drawn width and count gaps; divide width by gaps. Confirm the flow line touches each letter start and end without a break.

Task 2

Name 'Ana' on a 50 mm wide line with a 7 mm x-height. The tallest ascender is 14 mm. State the ascender-to-x-height ratio and list a four-step stroke order.

Answer: Ratio = 14 mm divided by 7 mm = 2. Four-step stroke order: 1) A left stem, 2) A right stem and crossbar, 3) connect to n and draw both n arches, 4) connect to a and draw a bowl and tail.

Reason: The ratio compares ascender height to x-height. Stroke order groups each letter's main strokes before connecting.

Check: Measure x-height and ascender with a ruler; divide ascender by x-height. Follow the listed order three times and compare connection points.

Task 3

Name 'Sam' on a 45 mm wide line with a 5 mm x-height. There are three letter gaps. After three attempts, the start point moves 1 mm, 2 mm, and 3 mm from target. Is the start point consistent enough by the 2 mm check? Explain.

Answer: No. The third attempt moves 3 mm, which exceeds the 2 mm check. The first two attempts pass, but consistency requires three consecutive attempts within 2 mm.

Reason: The check is applied to each attempt; one attempt over 2 mm means the signature is not yet consistent at the start point.

Check: Mark the target start point and measure each attempt's start point distance. Record all three distances and compare to 2 mm.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Name 'Ravi' on a 70 mm wide line with an 8 mm x-height. There are four letter gaps. Calculate the average gap. Then describe how to scale the signature to 105 mm wide while keeping proportion, and state the new x-height if the original ratio is kept.

Answer: Average gap = 70 mm divided by 4 = 17.5 mm. To scale to 105 mm, multiply all horizontal measurements by 105/70 = 1.5. New x-height = 8 mm times 1.5 = 12 mm. Keep the same stroke order and flow line, and recheck start and end points within 2 mm.

Reason: Scaling by a factor keeps proportions. The width factor is new width divided by old width. Applying the same factor to x-height preserves the ratio.

Check: Measure new width and new x-height; divide new width by old width and confirm it equals the x-height factor. Draw three attempts and measure start and end points.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Flow line is continuous from first letter to last, with pen lifts marked.
- [ ] Stroke order is listed and followed consistently across three attempts.
- [ ] Start and end points stay within 2 mm of targets on three consecutive attempts.
- [ ] Average gap is calculated from measured width and gap count.
- [ ] X-height and ascender ratio are measured and kept consistent when scaling.
- [ ] Letter shapes remain recognizable; valid style alternatives are accepted if flow and proportion are stable.

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