Drawing an Anime Girl: Face, Hair, and Pose Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw an anime girl head only. Use a head height of 1 unit (hypothetical example). Place the eye line at the middle, nose line one-third down from the eye line, and mouth halfway between nose and chin. Add a hair cap and two side sections. Check that the gap between eyes is about one eye width.

Answer: A head construction with circle and tapered chin, eye line at mid-height, nose and mouth on their guides, hair cap above the skull, and two side sections framing the face. The eye gap is approximately one eye width.

Reason: The exercise isolates facial placement and hair massing before pose construction. Using a single head unit makes proportion checks simple and repeatable.

Check: Measure the head height on your paper. Confirm the eye line is near the midpoint, the nose line is about one-third down from the eye line, and the mouth is halfway between nose and chin. Check the eye gap against one eye width.

Task 2

Draw an anime girl from the waist up with a simple spine curve and shoulder line. Use a head-height unit of 1 unit (hypothetical example) and make the torso about 2 units tall. Add a ribcage oval and pelvis trapezoid. Draw one arm bent at the elbow with a joint dot.

Answer: A waist-up construction with a spine curve, shoulder line, ribcage oval, pelvis trapezoid, and one bent arm with an elbow joint dot. The torso is about 2 head units tall.

Reason: This task practices torso and limb construction without the complexity of a full pose. The joint dot makes the elbow position checkable.

Check: Measure the torso height against your head unit. Confirm the shoulder line connects to the ribcage oval and the elbow dot sits between upper and lower arm segments.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw an anime girl standing with both arms relaxed at her sides. Use a total figure height of about 6 head units (hypothetical example). Mark shoulder and hip lines with a slight counter-tilt. Add joint dots at elbows and knees. Build hair as a cap plus length mass.

Answer: A full standing construction with a 6-unit figure, counter-tilted shoulder and hip lines, joint dots at elbows and knees, and hair built as a cap plus length mass. Arms hang naturally beside the torso.

Reason: The exercise combines full-body proportion, pose skeleton, and hair massing. The counter-tilt checks natural balance.

Check: Measure total height against the head unit. Confirm shoulder and hip lines tilt in opposite directions and that joint dots align with limb segments. Check hair masses sit above the skull.

Task 4

Draw an anime girl sitting with one knee raised. Use a head-height unit of 1 unit (hypothetical example). Construct the pose from a spine curve, hip line, and limb lines with joint dots. Check that the raised knee joint is higher than the opposite knee. Add hair side sections that frame the face.

Answer: A seated construction with a spine curve, hip line, and limb lines. The raised knee joint is higher than the opposite knee. Hair side sections frame the face and sit above the skull.

Reason: Seated poses test joint placement and relative height checks. The raised knee provides a simple arithmetic comparison.

Check: Measure the height of each knee joint from the baseline. Confirm the raised knee is higher. Check that hair side sections do not cover the eyes unless intended.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head proportions are consistent with a chosen convention and checked against a head-height unit.
- [ ] Facial features are placed using a baseline-to-midline convention; valid alternatives are acceptable if internally consistent.
- [ ] Hair is built as grouped masses sitting above the skull, with strand lines following mass direction.
- [ ] Pose is constructed from a skeleton with joint marks and counterbalanced shoulder and hip lines.
- [ ] Construction guides are light and erased before final lines; final silhouette reads clearly.
- [ ] Measurements use consistent units; any numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples.

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