Rose Tattoo Drawing: Line and Shading Design

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a rose bloom with four outer petals and a spiral core. Use the three-weight line convention. Describe where you place the heaviest, medium, and finest lines.

Answer: Heaviest line traces the outer boundary of the bloom and stem. Medium lines trace where each outer petal overlaps the next and where petals meet the core. Finest lines trace creases inside each petal and vein lines on leaves.

Reason: The convention prioritizes the silhouette so the design reads at small scale; internal detail is subordinate.

Check: View the drawing from one meter away. The outer shape should read first, then petal separations, then creases.

Task 2

A rose design has a 4 cm bloom and a 8 cm stem. The artist shades the upper left of every petal and leaves the lower right unshaded. Is the shading consistent with a single light direction? Explain.

Answer: Yes, if the light direction is from the lower right. The shaded upper left is opposite the light, which is consistent. If the intended light is upper left, the shading is reversed.

Reason: Consistent shading requires that the shaded side is opposite the chosen light direction for every petal.

Check: Mark the light direction outside the design and confirm that every shaded area faces away from it.

Task 3

You draw a rose with six petals packed tightly so that adjacent petal tips touch. At half size, the bloom looks like a solid circle. What change should you make, and how will you check the result?

Answer: Separate the petal tips by at least 3 mm (hypothetical example) and adjust overlap angles so gaps remain visible. Check by reducing the drawing to half size and viewing from one meter; the petal separations should still be visible.

Reason: Tattoo designs must remain legible when reduced; clear gaps preserve the silhouette.

Check: Compare the half-size view before and after the change; count visible petal separations.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Design a rose tattoo panel with a bloom, stem, and two leaves. State the line weights you use and the light direction. Then list two valid alternative choices that would still meet the rubric.

Answer: Example: heavy outer boundary, medium overlaps, fine creases; light from upper left. Alternatives: a tighter spiral core with five petals, or a looser arrangement with seven petals; either can meet the rubric if silhouette and line-weight hierarchy remain clear.

Reason: The rubric allows valid alternatives because letter styles and drawing styles vary; the convention is a guide, not a universal answer.

Check: Apply the rubric items to each alternative and confirm silhouette clarity and line-weight hierarchy.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette reads clearly as a rose at small scale and from one meter away.
- [ ] Outer boundary line is heaviest; overlap separations are medium; surface detail is finest.
- [ ] Shading follows a single light direction with clear highlights and mid-tones.
- [ ] Petal overlaps are distinct and do not merge into a blob.
- [ ] Stem and leaves support the bloom without competing for attention.
- [ ] Design is original and fits the rose tattoo design boundary.

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