# Drawing Warriors: Armor Layers, Weapon Grip, and Balanced Stance

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a warrior with a narrow stance, a single shoulder plate, and a short weapon held in one hand. Mark the balance line and label the armor layers.

Answer: A figure with feet close together, balance line falling between them, one shoulder plate overlapping a soft underlayer, and a short weapon gripped with thumb crossing the front. Labels show underlayer, plate, and strap order.

Reason: The narrow stance tests whether the balance line still lands inside the support area. The single plate tests consistent overlap on one side only.

Check: Verify the balance line is inside the feet, the thumb crosses the haft, and the plate overlaps the underlayer on the correct side.

Task 2

Draw the same body twice: once with light armor and a long weapon, once with heavy plates and a short weapon. Keep the stance identical. Write one sentence comparing which reads more grounded.

Answer: Two identical body blocks with the same balance line. The light version has a thin underlayer and small plates; the heavy version has larger overlapping plates. The comparison sentence explains which version looks more grounded based on the balance line and stance.

Reason: Holding the stance constant isolates the effect of armor and weapon choices, training comparison judgment.

Check: Confirm both figures share the same balance line and stance width, and that the sentence references the balance line or support area.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a two-handed grip on a diagonal haft. Show the thumb and fingers clearly. Then redraw the same grip with the wrists bent sharply and note one problem.

Answer: First drawing: haft drawn first, both hands wrapping it, thumbs crossing front, wrists aligned. Second drawing: same haft but wrists bent, making the grip look strained. The note identifies that sharp wrist bends reduce believability.

Reason: Comparing aligned and bent wrists teaches why wrist alignment matters for weapon handling.

Check: Check that the first grip has thumbs crossing the front and aligned wrists, and that the note names a specific problem in the second.

Task 4

Invent a warrior with three armor layers and a weapon resting on the shoulder. Use the layering order, mark the balance line, and label each layer with a legible style using the x-height convention.

Answer: A figure with underlayer, chest plate, and shoulder guard in consistent order; a weapon resting on the shoulder with one hand gripping the haft; balance line inside the feet; labels in any legible style meeting the x-height convention.

Reason: This task combines all three skills and allows valid alternatives in armor design and letter style.

Check: Verify layer order is consistent, the hand wraps the haft, the balance line is inside the feet, and labels are legible with x-height from baseline to midline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Armor layers follow a consistent order from body outward, with clear overlap.
- [ ] The weapon is held with thumb and fingers wrapping the haft, wrists aligned.
- [ ] The balance line falls within the support area of the feet.
- [ ] The pose and armor choices are compared in at least one sentence.
- [ ] Labels use the defined x-height convention (baseline to midline) and are legible; letter style may vary.

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