Pencil Flower Drawing: Line Weight, Graphite Shading, and Petal Layering

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a line-weight strip with five strokes labeled 1 to 5. Then draw one petal edge at weight 3 and one stem at weight 5.

Answer: A strip of five strokes increasing in darkness or thickness, a petal edge matching the middle stroke, and a stem matching the darkest stroke.

Reason: The strip calibrates pressure to visible weight. Matching the petal to stroke 3 and the stem to stroke 5 shows deliberate control.

Check: Compare the petal edge to stroke 3 and the stem to stroke 5. They should look similar in thickness or darkness.

Task 2

Create a five-square graphite shading panel from light to dark. Shade one petal with tone 2 and add tone 4 at its base.

Answer: Five squares with distinct tones, a petal mostly tone 2, and a darker tone-4 band near the base.

Reason: The panel establishes a value scale. Using two separated tones creates readable shadow without color.

Check: Check that the petal's base is visibly darker than its tip and that both tones appear in the panel.

Task 3

Draw a flower with three back petals and three front petals. Use weight 1 for construction, weight 3 for front petal edges, and leave a small gap where petals overlap.

Answer: A flower with faint construction marks, three back petals, three front petals with firmer edges, and visible gaps at overlaps.

Reason: Drawing back petals first and leaving gaps makes layering read clearly without extra shading.

Check: Trace each front petal edge: it should be darker than the back petals, and overlaps should show a gap or darker line.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a complete flower with a stem and one leaf. Use weight 3 for petal and leaf edges, weight 5 for the stem, tone 2 for lit areas, and tone 4 for shadow. Erase construction lines.

Answer: A complete pencil flower with a weight-5 stem, weight-3 petal and leaf edges, two shading tones, and no visible heavy construction lines.

Reason: This combines line weight, shading, and layering in one small composition. Erasing construction lines tests clean finish.

Check: Use the rubric: check line weight hierarchy, two tones, petal order, readable form, and clean construction.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line weight: construction lines are lighter than final petal edges; stem is darkest.
- [ ] Shading: at least two distinct graphite tones separate lit and shadowed areas.
- [ ] Layering: back petals are drawn before front petals and overlaps read clearly.
- [ ] Form: flower head is readable with five to eight petals and a simple stem.
- [ ] Cleanliness: construction lines are erased or very light; no heavy smudging.

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