Layered Mountain Scene Drawing: Foreground, Midground, Background

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On 8 by 10 inch paper, place a horizon 2 inches from the top. State three band boundaries in inches and name one shape for each layer.

Answer: Example: background 0 to 3 inches, midground 3 to 6 inches, foreground 6 to 10 inches; background ridge, midground mountain, foreground hill.

Reason: Bands must cover the full height and place the horizon inside one band. Any boundaries that sum to 10 inches and include the horizon are valid.

Check: Add the three band heights; the total must equal 10 inches, and the horizon must fall within one stated band.

Task 2

A drawing has background value 4, midground value 6, foreground value 8 on a 1 to 10 dark scale. Does the value order support depth? Explain.

Answer: Yes, if the convention is lightest at back and darkest at front. Values increase toward the foreground, so the order supports depth.

Reason: Depth reads when nearer layers are darker under this convention. The numbers rise from 4 to 8, matching back to front.

Check: Compare the three numbers in layer order; confirm they increase from background to foreground or match a stated alternative.

Task 3

You have drawn three background ridges and two midground mountains, but no line overlaps. Describe one specific change that creates an overlap and state which layers it connects.

Answer: Extend the left midground mountain peak upward so it crosses the second background ridge line, connecting midground and background.

Reason: Overlap requires a nearer line to cross a farther line. Extending a midground silhouette across a background ridge creates that crossing.

Check: Trace the changed line and confirm it crosses at least one background line without erasing the background shape.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A foreground tree is drawn smaller than a background ridge. State the detail-size problem and one fix using the rubric.

Answer: The foreground detail is too small relative to the background, weakening depth. Enlarge the foreground tree so its detail is the largest in the scene.

Reason: Detail size should decrease with distance. A small foreground shape conflicts with that cue.

Check: Compare the largest foreground detail with the largest background detail; the foreground should be equal or larger.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three distinct layers are labeled or clearly separable: background, midground, foreground.
- [ ] At least two overlaps occur between adjacent layers, with nearer lines crossing farther lines.
- [ ] Value order is consistent: background lightest, midground medium, foreground darkest, or a stated alternative applied consistently.
- [ ] Detail size decreases from foreground to background.
- [ ] Mountain bases relate to a marked horizon or ground plane.
- [ ] Composition is uncluttered: shape counts per layer are stated and followed.

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