Anime Pose Practice: Gesture Lines and Proportion Guides

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A seated anime character leans forward with both hands on the knees. The head height is 2.5 cm. Using a hypothetical five-head-height seated proportion, describe where to place the chest, pelvis, and knees, and draw the gesture line.

Answer: Gesture line curves from the head forward through the chest to the pelvis, then down to the feet. Head unit = 2.5 cm. Seated total height from head top to seat is about 3.5 units = 8.75 cm. Chest about 1.5 units below head top = 3.75 cm. Pelvis about 2.5 units below head top = 6.25 cm. Knees forward of the pelvis at about seat height, roughly 3.5 units from head top = 8.75 cm. Hands rest on knees.

Reason: The forward lean is captured by the gesture line's curve. The head unit keeps the seated proportions consistent, and the knees are placed forward because the pose is seated, not standing.

Check: Measure the head height on the drawing and confirm it is 2.5 cm. Check that chest, pelvis, and knees use multiples of that unit. Confirm the gesture line passes through the weight-bearing seat and feet.

Task 2

A running anime character has one leg forward and one leg back. The head height is 3 cm. Using a hypothetical six-head-height standing ratio, place the chest, pelvis, and forward knee, and describe how the gesture line differs from a standing pose.

Answer: Gesture line angles forward from the head through the chest and pelvis to the forward foot. Head unit = 3 cm. Chest about 1.5 units below head top = 4.5 cm. Pelvis about 2.5 units below head top = 7.5 cm. Forward knee about 4 units below head top = 12 cm and ahead of the pelvis. Back leg extends behind. The gesture line is more diagonal than in a standing pose.

Reason: Running shifts the action line forward. The same head unit keeps body parts comparable, while the forward knee placement reflects the stride.

Check: Verify the head unit is 3 cm and reused. Check that the forward knee is ahead of the pelvis and that the gesture line is diagonal, not vertical.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

An anime character reaches upward with both arms. The head height is 2 cm. Using a hypothetical six-head-height ratio, place the chest and pelvis, and explain how to check arm length without a reference image.

Answer: Gesture line rises from the supporting foot through the pelvis and chest to the raised hands. Head unit = 2 cm. Chest about 1.5 units below head top = 3 cm. Pelvis about 2.5 units below head top = 5 cm. Each arm is blocked as two segments from the shoulder; the hand reaches above the head. Check arm length by comparing the upper arm and forearm segments to the torso length and by confirming both arms use the same segment lengths.

Reason: The upward reach changes the gesture line's direction. Arm length is checked by segment comparison rather than a single absolute number, which allows stylistic variation.

Check: Measure the head unit and confirm chest and pelvis placements. Compare left and right arm segments for equal length and check that hands are above the head.

Task 4

Draw the same anime character in two poses on one page: one standing with weight on the right leg, one sitting with hands on knees. The head height is 2.5 cm. Describe how to keep proportion consistent across both poses.

Answer: Use the same 2.5 cm head unit for both poses. For standing, place chest about 1.5 units below head top, pelvis about 2.5 units, and feet at about 6 units. For sitting, place chest about 1.5 units, pelvis about 2.5 units, and knees forward at seat height. Draw a separate gesture line for each pose. Compare the head unit and torso placements between the two drawings.

Reason: Consistency comes from reusing the measured head unit and the same torso placement rules, while the gesture line and leg positions change with the pose.

Check: Measure the head height in both drawings and confirm both are 2.5 cm. Check that chest and pelvis placements use the same unit multiples. Confirm each pose has its own gesture line.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Gesture line clearly shows the pose's action and weight flow.
- [ ] Head unit is measured and reused consistently within the drawing.
- [ ] Torso, pelvis, and limbs are blocked before refinement.
- [ ] Proportion checks compare shoulder width, hip width, arm length, and hand size.
- [ ] Weight-bearing leg and pelvis shift support the pose.
- [ ] Construction lines are kept until the silhouette is stable.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives are accepted if proportion units remain consistent.

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