Colored Pencil Eye: Layered Iris and Skin Tone Blending

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

An eye map has a 36 mm width. The iris circle is drawn with its top on the midline and bottom on the baseline. The pupil is 8 mm across and centered. State the layer order and one value check.

Answer: Layer order: base, mid, highlight. Value check: pupil darkest, iris rim mid-dark, highlight lightest.

Reason: The map fixes iris placement; the layer order prevents muddy color, and the value check confirms three distinct iris values.

Check: Measure pupil center to iris edge on both sides; equal distances confirm centering. Step back to compare three values.

Task 2

A student colors the iris base, then adds deep accent, then mid tone, and finally colors the highlight with dark pencil. Identify two mistakes and give fixes.

Answer: Mistake one: accent before mid, causing muddiness; fix by following base, mid, accent order. Mistake two: coloring the highlight dark; fix by reserving it untouched or using a very pale pencil.

Reason: The stated order reverses the planned layers and destroys the lightest area, so both value and order checks fail.

Check: List the actual order and compare to base, mid, highlight. Confirm the highlight is the lightest area from a short distance.

Task 3

Skin around an eye uses light peach base and mid tan crease, but the blend looks patchy and skin color crosses the iris rim. Give two corrective steps using the lesson method.

Answer: Add a thin light-base pass over the patch, then a light mid pass. Stop skin strokes at the iris rim and blend only within skin.

Reason: Thin layers correct patchiness without heavy pressure, and stopping at the rim keeps the eye edge crisp.

Check: Check that skin shows two smooth values and that no skin color crosses the iris rim.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A drawing uses a green iris base, a mid green radial layer, and a reserved highlight. Skin uses light olive base and mid brown crease. The iris rim is crisp. Decide whether this is valid under the rubric and state one refinement.

Answer: Valid: layer order and value checks pass, and alternative colors are allowed. Refinement: add a thin deep accent only at the crease line to deepen skin without crossing the rim.

Reason: The rubric accepts valid alternatives if three iris values and two skin values are present and the rim is crisp.

Check: Count three iris values and two skin values; confirm the highlight is lightest and the rim is uncrossed.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Layer order is stated and followed: base, mid, highlight.
- [ ] Iris shows at least three distinct values.
- [ ] Skin shows at least two blended values.
- [ ] Highlight remains the lightest area.
- [ ] Iris rim is crisp and not crossed by skin color.
- [ ] Valid alternative colors are accepted if value checks pass.

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