Four-Person Composition: Spacing, Overlap, and Depth

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A hypothetical paper is 20 cm wide and 16 cm high. You divide the drawing area into four equal columns. What is each column width in centimeters? If your head unit is 2.5 cm, how many head units wide is each column?

Answer: Each column is 5 cm wide. Each column is 2 head units wide because 5 divided by 2.5 equals 2.

Reason: Divide total width by four columns: 20 divided by 4 equals 5 cm. Divide column width by head unit: 5 divided by 2.5 equals 2 head units.

Check: Multiply 5 cm by 4 columns to get 20 cm. Multiply 2 head units by 2.5 cm to get 5 cm.

Task 2

You plan four figures in columns A, B, C, and D. The overlap order from front to back is C, A, D, B. You are drawing column A's figure. Which figures should stop their lines at A's edge, and which figure's edge should A stop at?

Answer: C is in front of A, so A's lines should stop at C's edge. A is in front of D and B, so D's and B's lines should stop at A's edge.

Reason: The order C, A, D, B means C is frontmost, then A, then D, then B. A behind C stops at C. A in front of D and B causes D and B to stop at A.

Check: Trace the order list: for each pair, the figure later in the list stops at the earlier figure's edge. Confirm A stops at C, and D and B stop at A.

Task 3

A hypothetical group has four standing adults, each four head units tall, with a head unit of 3 cm. The ground line is 14 cm from the top of the paper. Where is the top of each figure's head measured from the top of the paper?

Answer: Each figure is 12 cm tall, so the top of each head is 2 cm from the top of the paper because 14 minus 12 equals 2.

Reason: Four head units times 3 cm equals 12 cm. Subtract figure height from ground line distance: 14 minus 12 equals 2 cm.

Check: Add figure height to head-top distance: 12 plus 2 equals 14 cm, matching the ground line.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You want faces at least one head unit apart. Your head unit is 2 cm. Face centers are at 4 cm, 7 cm, 10 cm, and 13 cm from the left edge. Which adjacent face gaps meet the minimum, and which do not?

Answer: Gaps are 3 cm, 3 cm, and 3 cm. All three gaps meet the 2 cm minimum because each is greater than 2 cm.

Reason: Subtract adjacent face centers: 7 minus 4 equals 3, 10 minus 7 equals 3, and 13 minus 10 equals 3. Compare each to the 2 cm minimum.

Check: Re-add the gaps: 4 plus 3 equals 7, 7 plus 3 equals 10, and 10 plus 3 equals 13. Confirm each gap is at least 2 cm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Four distinct figures are present and each is readable as a person.
- [ ] Spacing is varied and intentional; faces are at least one head unit apart unless a close pair is clearly intended.
- [ ] Overlap order is clear and consistent; behind lines stop at front figure edges.
- [ ] Faces and key gestures remain visible; no accidental face covering.
- [ ] Figure heights use a consistent head unit or a noted reason for variation.
- [ ] Ground contact points are consistent for figures on the same ground plane.
- [ ] The composition reads as one group, not four separate drawings.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles and proportions are accepted if the spacing and overlap checks pass.

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