Color a Dog Drawing with Layered Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A dog outline has a round head and a light arrow pointing from the upper right. The coat colors are light tan, medium brown, and dark brown. List the layer order and state which side of the head gets the middle and dark shading.

Answer: Layer order: light tan base, then medium brown, then dark brown, then highlights. Middle and dark shading go on the lower left of the head, opposite the upper-right light.

Reason: The base must be lightest so later layers can darken it. Shadows sit opposite the light source, so an upper-right light puts shadows on the lower left.

Check: Confirm the list starts with light tan and ends with highlights, and confirm the shaded side is lower left, opposite the arrow.

Task 2

A dog body is drawn as a long oval with the light from the upper left. A student shades the upper left edge with dark brown and the lower right with light tan. Identify the error and give the corrected placement.

Answer: The error is reversed shading: dark color is on the light side and light color on the shadow side. Correct placement is light tan on the upper left and dark brown along the lower right edge.

Reason: Shadows belong opposite the light. With upper-left light, the lower right of the oval turns away from the light and should be darker.

Check: Compare each shaded band to the light arrow: darker bands should be farther from the arrow.

Task 3

A hanging ear is drawn as a curved shape on the right side of the head, light from the upper left. Describe where the middle layer and dark layer go, and state the stroke direction convention.

Answer: Middle layer goes along the inner lower edge of the ear; dark layer goes deepest inside the ear fold. Strokes run parallel to the ear's curved edge.

Reason: The ear's lower inner area faces away from the upper-left light, so it receives the darker layers. Parallel strokes follow the form and make the shading readable.

Check: Check that darker color is on the lower inner edge, not the upper outer edge, and that strokes follow the curve rather than crossing it.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A dog drawing uses light gray, medium gray, and dark gray. The light arrow points from the upper left. A student applies dark gray first over the whole body, then medium gray on the lower right, then light gray on the upper left. Explain why this order fails the rubric and give a corrected order.

Answer: The order fails because the darkest layer was applied first, so later lighter layers cannot sit beneath it as required. Corrected order: light gray base over the whole body, medium gray on the lower right, dark gray in the deepest shadow areas, then small highlights.

Reason: The rubric requires lightest to darkest layering so each darker layer builds on a lighter base. Starting dark reverses the build and usually muddies the result.

Check: List the layers in the order applied and confirm the first is the lightest and the last is a highlight.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Layer order is lightest to darkest, with no dark layer applied before a middle layer.
- [ ] Shading strokes run parallel to the edge of each form, following the stated convention.
- [ ] Shadow bands sit opposite the chosen light direction and are consistent across the dog.
- [ ] Highlights are small and placed on the upper left of shiny forms.
- [ ] The dog is fully colored inside the outline with no unintended white gaps.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different coat colors, a different consistent light direction, and varied stroke texture, provided the layer order and direction convention are followed.

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