Oil Pastel Flower Drawing: Compare Blending, Sgraffito, and Thick Application

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a scrap area, apply a yellow base, add an orange top layer, and scratch three lines with a toothpick. Describe what you see in the scratched lines and whether the paper is torn.

Answer: The scratched lines should reveal yellow beneath the orange. The paper should not be torn. If the lines are faint, add another top layer and scratch again with light pressure.

Reason: Sgraffito works by removing a top layer to expose a lower one. A contrasting base makes the lines visible. Testing on scrap protects the final flower.

Check: Hold the scrap at an angle to the light. The scratched lines should show a different color from the top layer, and the paper surface should feel flat, not fuzzy or torn.

Task 2

Draw a petal about 3 cm wide. Apply a light pink base, then a darker pink near the base. Blend with a clean finger in one direction. State one sign that you blended enough and one sign that you over-blended.

Answer: Enough blending: the transition between light and dark pink is soft but both colors remain visible. Over-blended: the petal looks gray or shiny and the pink is dull. If over-blended, add a thin layer of light pink.

Reason: Blending should soften edges without erasing color differences. Over-blending pushes pastel into the paper and reduces brightness.

Check: Compare the petal to the original pastel sticks. The blended area should still resemble both colors. If it looks grayer than either stick, it is over-blended.

Task 3

On a petal, apply two layers of blue pastel with firm pressure, without blending. Then add three small dabs of white near the tip. Describe how the petal feels and whether the stroke marks are visible.

Answer: The petal should feel slightly raised compared with a blended petal. Stroke marks should remain visible, and the white dabs should sit on top without fully blending in.

Reason: Thick application builds height and preserves stroke texture. Adding highlight dabs without blending keeps the raised effect.

Check: Run a clean finger lightly over the petal. You should feel a slight ridge. Look at the petal from the side; stroke marks should catch the light.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Make a small chart with three boxes labeled B, S, and T. In each box, write one visible clue that identifies the technique. Then draw a tiny petal sample in each box using the matching technique.

Answer: B: smooth transition, soft edges. S: scratched lines showing a lower color. T: raised texture, visible strokes. The tiny samples should match these clues.

Reason: A comparison chart forces clear observation. The clues should be visible, not inferred, so another person could identify each technique from the sample.

Check: Ask someone to match each clue to each sample without reading the labels. If they match correctly, the clues are clear enough.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The flower is recognizable and has at least three labeled petal areas for blending, sgraffito, and thick application.
- [ ] Blended petal shows a smooth transition between two colors without gray dullness or torn paper.
- [ ] Sgraffito petal shows deliberate scratched lines that reveal a contrasting lower layer, with no torn paper.
- [ ] Thick-application petal shows raised texture and visible stroke direction, contained within the petal outline.
- [ ] The three techniques are visibly different from one another when compared side by side.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: any flower shape, any color pair, and any line pattern that meets the technique description.

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