Continuous Contour Line Portraits: One Unbroken Line

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Using the convention that the line may cross but never lift, plan a route for a face where the eyes are halfway down the head and the nose base is midway between eyes and chin. Start at the left ear and end at the right ear. Describe the route in order.

Answer: Start at the left ear, move up the side of the head to the top, across the hairline to the right side, down to the right ear, then inward to the right eye. Trace the right eye, cross to the nose, trace the bridge and nostrils, move to the mouth, trace lips, then travel along the jaw to the left ear and stop.

Reason: The route follows the contour first, then visits features in a logical order, using crossings to move between them without lifting.

Check: Trace the described route with a finger: confirm it starts at the left ear, ends at the right ear, and never leaves the face area.

Task 2

A student draws a continuous line portrait but the eyes are placed near the top of the head and the mouth is very low. Using the halfway guidelines, state two specific placement corrections and one continuity check.

Answer: Move the eyes down to roughly halfway between the top of the head and the chin. Move the mouth up to between the nose base and the chin. Continuity check: trace the line to confirm there are no gaps where the pen lifted.

Reason: The guidelines give checkable positions; the continuity check addresses the defining convention.

Check: Measure with a finger: eyes should be near the middle height of the head; mouth should sit between nose base and chin.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Describe how to draw the nose and mouth in one continuous route without lifting the pen, starting from the left eye and ending at the right cheek. Include at least one crossing.

Answer: From the left eye, travel down the left side of the nose bridge, around the left nostril, across the base of the nose to the right nostril, up the right side of the bridge, crossing the first bridge line near the top. Move to the upper lip, trace it to the right corner, trace the lower lip back to the left corner, then travel up to the right cheek and stop.

Reason: The route connects features in sequence and uses a crossing at the bridge to return without lifting.

Check: Confirm the described path visits left eye, nose, mouth, and right cheek in order and includes a crossing at the bridge.

Task 4

You have a reference face and a blank face outline. Explain how to use the outline to practice continuity, and give one self-check for feature placement after the drawing.

Answer: Place the pen on the outline at the top of the head and follow the outline down one side to the jaw, then inward to the eyes, nose, and mouth, using crossings to move between features, and return to the outline. After drawing, check that the eyes are near halfway down the head and the mouth is between nose and chin.

Reason: The outline provides a ready contour to follow, so the student can focus on keeping the line unbroken while placing features.

Check: Trace the line for gaps; then compare eye and mouth heights to the halfway guidelines.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line continuity: the pen never lifted; crossings and retraces are present but no gaps.
- [ ] Feature placement: eyes near halfway down the head, nose base between eyes and chin, mouth between nose and chin.
- [ ] Contour clarity: jaw, hairline, and face edges are readable.
- [ ] Line confidence: strokes are deliberate and smooth rather than shaky.
- [ ] Convention adherence: the drawing uses one unbroken line and does not shade or render.

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