Contour Line Drawing of Posed Figures for High School

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A standing figure faces forward with both arms raised above the head. The left arm crosses slightly in front of the right arm near the wrists. Describe where you would stop and continue the contour line to show the wrist overlap.

Answer: The left arm is in front, so keep its visible contour continuous through the wrist overlap. The right arm or wrist contour ends where it meets the left arm and resumes only on the far side if it becomes visible.

Reason: The foreground arm is the occluder, so its contour remains unbroken. The wrist contour behind it is interrupted at the overlap.

Check: Look for a T-junction whose continuous crossbar belongs to the left foreground arm; the right wrist contour must stop at it and appear only beyond it if visible.

Task 2

A figure sits on a chair with the right knee raised. The right forearm rests on the raised knee. Identify the overlap and state which edge you draw first.

Answer: The right forearm overlaps the raised knee. Keep the forearm contour continuous; stop the knee contour where it meets the arm and resume it only on the far side where visible.

Reason: The forearm is in front of the knee, so the arm is the occluding contour. The knee edge is hidden at the crossing and must not be drawn through the forearm.

Check: Check that the forearm contour remains continuous and the knee line terminates at it, resuming only beyond the arm where visible.

Task 3

A figure leans forward with the left hand on the left hip. The left elbow points backward. Describe how to keep the contour continuous from the shoulder to the hand without lifting the pencil.

Answer: Trace from the shoulder down the upper arm to the elbow, around the elbow point, along the forearm to the wrist, and around the hand to the hip, keeping the line unbroken.

Reason: The elbow creates a sharp turn; slowing down at the elbow helps keep the line continuous.

Check: Confirm the line has no breaks between shoulder and hand and that the elbow turn is visible.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A figure stands with the right leg crossed in front of the left leg at the ankle. The right foot points left. Describe the overlap at the ankles and how to make the crossed-leg pose readable.

Answer: The right leg is in front, so keep its contour continuous at the ankle overlap. The left ankle contour stops where it meets the right leg and resumes beyond it where visible. Draw the right foot pointing left to clarify direction; interrupt the left foot edge where the foreground foot covers it.

Reason: The right leg and foot are foreground shapes. Their contours continue; the left ankle and foot contours are interrupted wherever those foreground shapes occlude them.

Check: Ask a classmate to describe the crossed-leg pose. Check for a T-junction with the right foreground contour continuous and the left rear contour interrupted and resumed only where visible.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line continuity: the contour is unbroken except for noted accidental lifts.
- [ ] Overlap handling: foreground contours continue; occluded contours stop at them and resume only where visible beyond.
- [ ] Pose readability: a viewer can describe the pose from the outline alone.
- [ ] Junction decisions: each overlap is deliberate and matches which body part is in front.
- [ ] No shading or construction lines: only contour lines are used.

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