Contour Line Drawing: A Bedroom Scene Study

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A bed is drawn with its headboard on the left and footboard on the right. A chair sits in front of the footboard, overlapping it. Describe the order of contour tracing at the overlap and how to keep the line continuous.

Answer: Trace the chair's back contour first where it is in front. Follow the footboard edge up to the chair back, stop, and resume the footboard on the other side of the chair. Keep the line continuous by retracing a short segment at the junction or by looping at the stop point.

Reason: The front object's contour interrupts the rear object's contour. Stopping and resuming avoids drawing through the front object, and a short retrace keeps the pen on the paper.

Check: Verify that no line passes through the chair back to continue the footboard, and that the footboard contour resumes on the far side of the chair.

Task 2

A lamp shade overlaps the top edge of a headboard. The lamp is in front. List the contour segments in order from the lamp base to the headboard top, including the overlap handling.

Answer: Trace the lamp base, stem, and shade outline. At the shade's lower edge where it meets the headboard, trace the shade first. Then follow the headboard top edge to the shade, stop, and resume the headboard top edge above the shade. Continue to the headboard's outer corner.

Reason: The shade is in front, so its contour is uninterrupted. The headboard contour is interrupted at the shade and resumes above it.

Check: Check that the headboard top edge does not continue behind the shade and that the shade outline is complete.

Contour Line Drawing: A Bedroom Scene Study

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You are drawing a bed with a visible mattress seam and a headboard with a decorative groove. Decide which lines to include in the single-line contour and which to omit. Explain your choice.

Answer: Include the bed's outer boundary: headboard profile, mattress side, and footboard. Omit the mattress seam and the headboard groove because they are interior detail lines that do not change the outer silhouette.

Reason: Contour lines separate the object from space or other objects. Interior details separate parts of the same surface and are excluded in a contour study.

Check: Confirm that every included line lies on the outer boundary of the bed or another object, and that no included line is purely decorative.

Task 4

A chair is placed beside a bed so that the chair's back touches the bed's side. Describe how to trace the shared edge once and continue to the chair's seat and legs without lifting the pen.

Answer: Trace the shared edge where the chair back meets the bed side. At the end of the shared edge, continue along the chair back's outer contour, then down to the seat and legs. Keep the line continuous by following the visible boundary; the shared edge is drawn once.

Reason: A shared edge is a single visible contour for both objects. Tracing it once avoids duplication and keeps the line continuous.

Check: Verify that the shared edge is not drawn twice and that the line flows from the shared edge into the chair's outer contour without a break.

Contour Line Drawing: A Bedroom Scene Study

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The line is continuous from start to finish, with no lifts; short retraces at junctions are allowed.
- [ ] Only outer contours are drawn; interior detail lines such as seams and switches are omitted.
- [ ] Overlaps are handled by stopping the rear contour at the front object and resuming it on the other side.
- [ ] The bed, lamp, and chair are all present and readable as distinct forms.
- [ ] Proportions are plausible: the bed is longer than it is high, and the chair seat is lower than the mattress.
- [ ] The drawing uses a defined convention for single-line contour, such as retracing at junctions, and this convention is applied consistently.

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