Cross-Contour Vase Drawing: Curved vs Straight Lines

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A vase is 10 cm tall with its widest point at 4 cm from the base (width 6 cm) and a rim width of 3 cm at 10 cm. Plan four cross-contour heights and state where the line should be most bowed.

Answer: Heights could be 2 cm, 4 cm, 7 cm, and 10 cm. The line at 4 cm should be most bowed because that is the widest point.

Reason: Cross-contour curvature follows width: the widest slice produces the longest, most bowed line. Sampling the base, belly, neck, and rim gives a readable set.

Check: Verify that each chosen height lies within 0 to 10 cm and that the widest height is included.

Task 2

A student draws straight horizontal lines on both vase versions. Explain what information is lost and what remains clear.

Answer: Surface curvature is lost because straight lines do not bend with the form. Height levels remain clear because the lines are level.

Reason: Straight lines act as height markers but do not describe how the surface turns toward or away from the viewer.

Check: Cover the silhouette and ask whether the lines alone suggest roundness; if not, curvature information is missing.

Task 3

A vase has widths of 4 cm at 1 cm height, 7 cm at 5 cm, and 3 cm at 9 cm. If you draw three cross-contour lines at those heights, which line is shortest and which is longest?

Answer: The line at 9 cm is shortest (3 cm width); the line at 5 cm is longest (7 cm width).

Reason: Line length across the form corresponds to the vase's width at that height.

Check: Compare the stated widths: 3 cm is less than 4 cm and 7 cm, so the 9 cm line is shortest.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You draw a vase with four cross-contour lines at 2 cm, 5 cm, 8 cm, and 11 cm. The lines at 2 cm and 11 cm are nearly flat, while the line at 5 cm bows strongly. Describe the vase's likely shape and one check to confirm your lines are consistent.

Answer: The vase is narrow near the base and rim and wide at 5 cm, like a rounded belly. A check is to confirm that each line reaches both silhouettes and that the bowing increases toward the widest height.

Reason: Flat lines at the ends suggest little width change there; strong bowing at 5 cm suggests the widest point. Consistency requires matching curvature to width.

Check: Measure or estimate the width at each height and confirm that the most bowed line occurs at the greatest width.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Four to six cross-contour lines are present and reach both silhouettes.
- [ ] Line curvature varies with the vase's width at each height.
- [ ] Spacing is consistent and readable.
- [ ] The same heights are used in both the curved and straight versions.
- [ ] The comparison identifies which version better conveys roundness and why.
- [ ] Handwriting and line style are consistent enough to read; valid stylistic variation is accepted.

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