

Human Proportions:

Many artists consider drawing the human figure to be the ultimate artistic challenge. As with portraits, artists use figure drawings for documentation, for illustration purposes and for creative expression. The drawings also serve as starting notes for everything from paintings, sculptures, and prints to projects like fashion designs and digital film animations. Artists often fill their sketchbooks with figure drawings of all sizes, ages, and looks for possible later use in paintings. Their sketchbooks become almost like a clip file, from which the artist may select just the right figure type for just the right subject.

Drawing the proportions page

1. Divide a page in your sketchbook so that the left 1/3 is separated by a vertical line from the right 2/3.
2. Divide the right 1/3 in half by a horizontal line at the half way point so that you the top half is the same size as the bottom half.
3. In the top half of the left hand side of your page, draw a stick figure from a live model as accurately as you can as the model faces you. Be sure to accurately position the hands, feet, and head.
4. In the bottom half of the left hand side of your page, draw a stick figure from a live model as accurately as you can as the model is turned to the side (side profile).
5. In the large section of your page redraw the top stick figure so that the proportions accurately align with the classic 7 ½ head figure or the contemporary 8 head tall figure. Ensure that all the extremities of the body line up correctly according to the canon you've chosen.

Mounting the proportions handout into your sketchbook:

1. Get the sketchbook proportions handout from your teacher (*if you do not have it already*)
2. On the back side of your "Human Proportions" page glue in the proportions handout so that it is clearly legible.

Authoring the Human Proportions resource page

1. Creatively write “Human Proportions” as the title at the top of the page you’ve drawn the accurate proportions on.
2. Down the right hand side of the page draw a “measuring stick” that extends the height of the figure. Divide it using small lines by the number of heads you’ve drawn the figure with.

Near the large stick figure in full, complete sentences and in a visually creative way answer the following question correctly:

3. Where do the following body parts line up? (use points of reference on the body):
 - a. Tip of the hands with the arms extended downward
 - b. Elbows align
4. Also note the following (use the head as a measurement):
 - a. How wide is the figure from shoulder to shoulder?
 - b. About how far is it from the floor to the ankles?
 - c. About how far is it from the floor to the knees?