

Contour

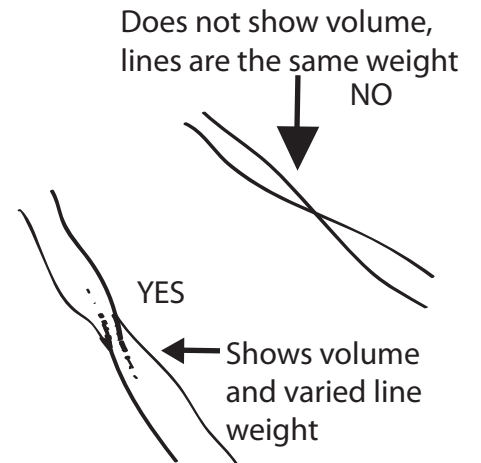
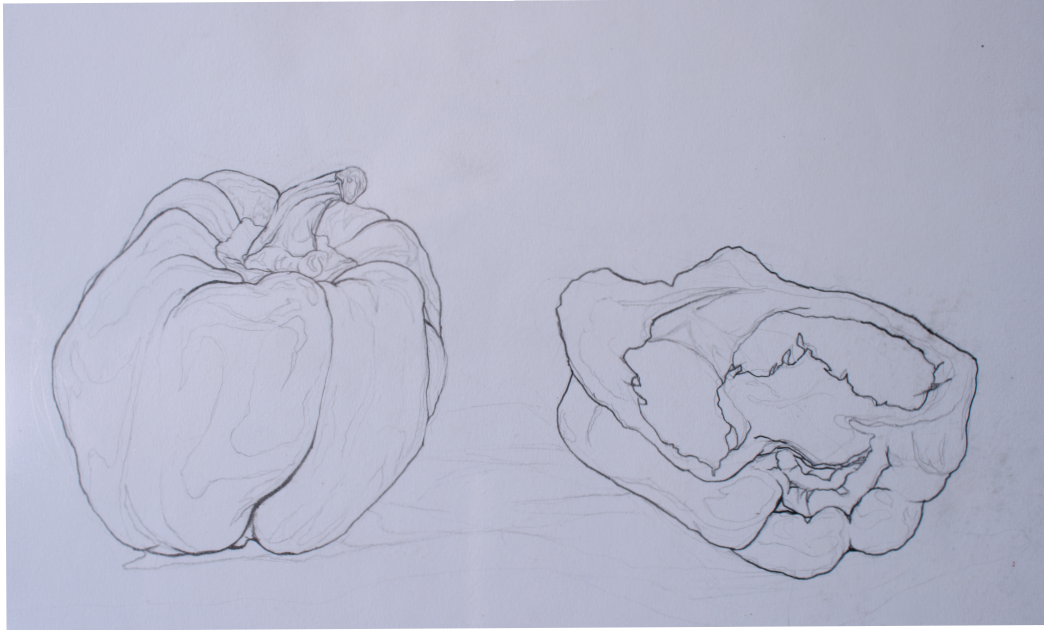
Studying an object by contour drawing is a way in which you can analyze your subject slowly and carefully. It can improve your seeing ability and ultimately give you a clearer understanding of how "the parts relate to the whole."

In contour drawing, you are using the most limited means possible to describe the subject visually. Your main focus is on edges - the outside of an object and the line made by a fold or pattern of an object.

It is important not get become involved with the light and shadow when working with a contour drawing. The WEIGHT of the contour line (thick to thin and light to dark lines) can be used to give the illusion of something being closer or further away.



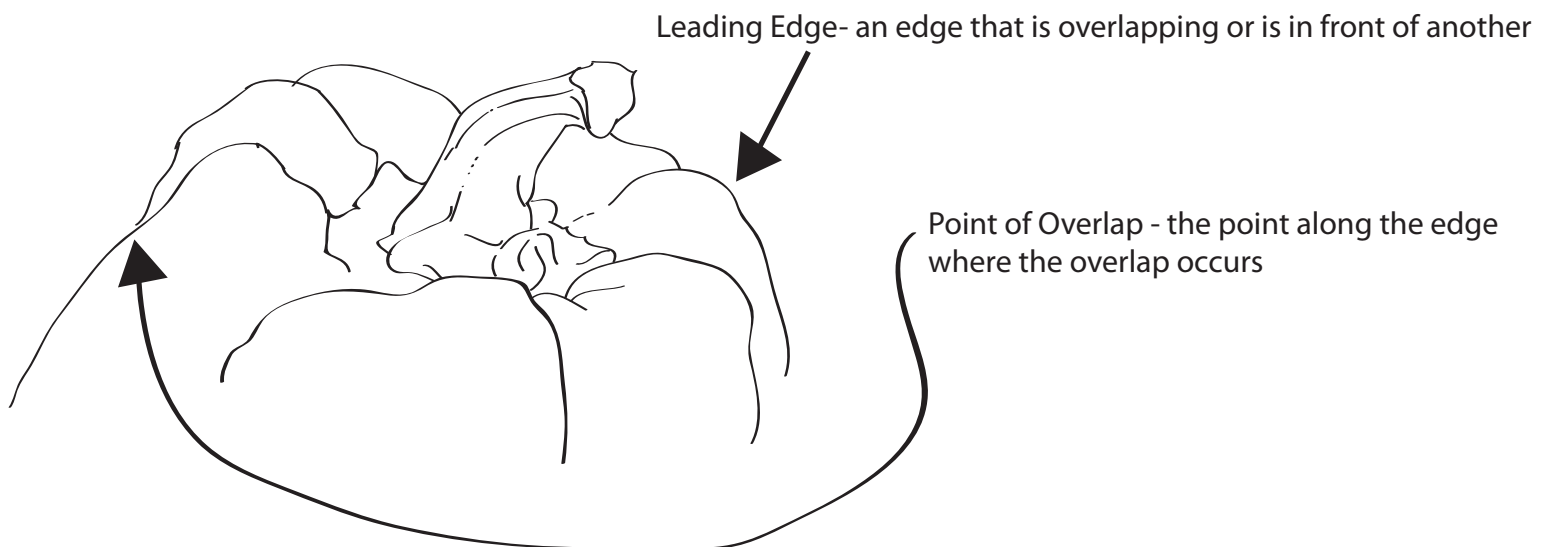
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Does not show volume, lines are the same weight
NO

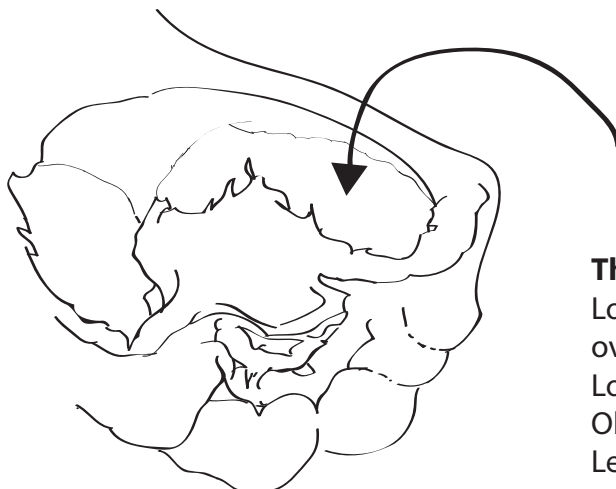
YES
Shows volume and varied line weight

Make sure to pay attention to overlaps and the differences between leading edges and points of overlap. This will help in giving a true sense of volume and thickness to the subject.



Leading Edge- an edge that is overlapping or is in front of another

Point of Overlap - the point along the edge where the overlap occurs



Negative Shape - the spaces between the forms of the objects, empty spaces

Things to remember:

Look for leading edges in the beginning, then look for the point of overlap to find the edge that is below.

Look for negative shapes as much as possible.

Observe carefully and do not rush it.

Leave the emphasizing lines on the outer contour for the end.

Measure if you are unsure about proportions.

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