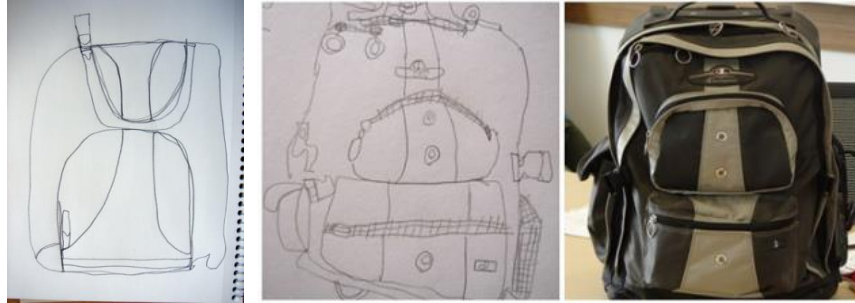


# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Blind Contour Drawing

## Element of Art: Shape

**Objective:** To use a modified blind contour technique to accurately draw shapes.

**Artistic Influence:** Local artist William Cumming

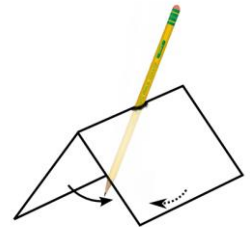


### Elements of Art:

Shape

### Materials:

- 9" x 12" newsprint and/or 60# white sulphite paper
- Photocopy or construction paper, cut in half for each student to use one as a tent
- Pencils, drawing or regular school pencils



### Instructions and notes:

1. Ahead of teaching, fold enough half sheets of paper for each child to have one sheet.
2. Poke a sharpened pencil through the middle of each construction paper tent.
3. Give each child one pencil + tent and a few sheets of newsprint for practice.
4. After showing students the lesson slide deck, through slide 10, give students time to draw the objects shown on each subsequent slide. Remind them:
  - to take their time; there's no rush
  - to use up all of their practice paper before starting a fresh one (to conserve paper)
  - to keep their eyes on the objects they are drawing
  - not to peek under their paper tents, which are meant to hide their drawings while in progress
  - to have fun with the process, even if it seems silly and their drawings don't look at all like the objects
  - Especially, remind them that few artists are good at blind contour drawing the first time they try it. What we are aiming for here is to have basic outlines that are recognizable. Invite them to relax, laugh and enjoy the surprise of what they see on their papers.
5. When they are ready to draw their backpacks (or another object comprised of complex shapes):
  - Ask students to remove the tents from their pencils.
  - Explain that they will use partial blind contour from this point forward, looking mostly at the object but giving an occasional glance to their paper.
  - Remind students that there will be no shading or filling in – just do the outline of important shapes.
  - Draw big, trying to fill the entire paper.
6. Invite students to share their art and talk about the process, if time allows.
7. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
8. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
9. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

## LWSD Art Docent Project: Blind Contour Backpack

The goal of this 5<sup>th</sup> grade lesson was to draw shapes using the blind contour technique.



Rodeo Rider, 1981, William Cumming

### WA State Visual Arts Standard

Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice. (VA: Cr2.1.5)

Blind contour is a drawing exercise in which an artist draws the contour of a subject without looking down at what is being drawn on the paper. This technique takes a lot of practice to master, but it is an excellent way to train artists to draw what they see accurately and quickly.

In this lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students experienced examples of blind contour drawing by local artist William Cumming and used a modified blind contour technique to accurately draw shapes.

The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.