

# One Point Perspective



## Optical Illusion Drawing

Lesson Instructions by Ursina Amsler  
[AmslerArtRoom.wordpress.com](http://AmslerArtRoom.wordpress.com)

## What is One Point Perspective?

Dictionary.com defines one point perspective as:

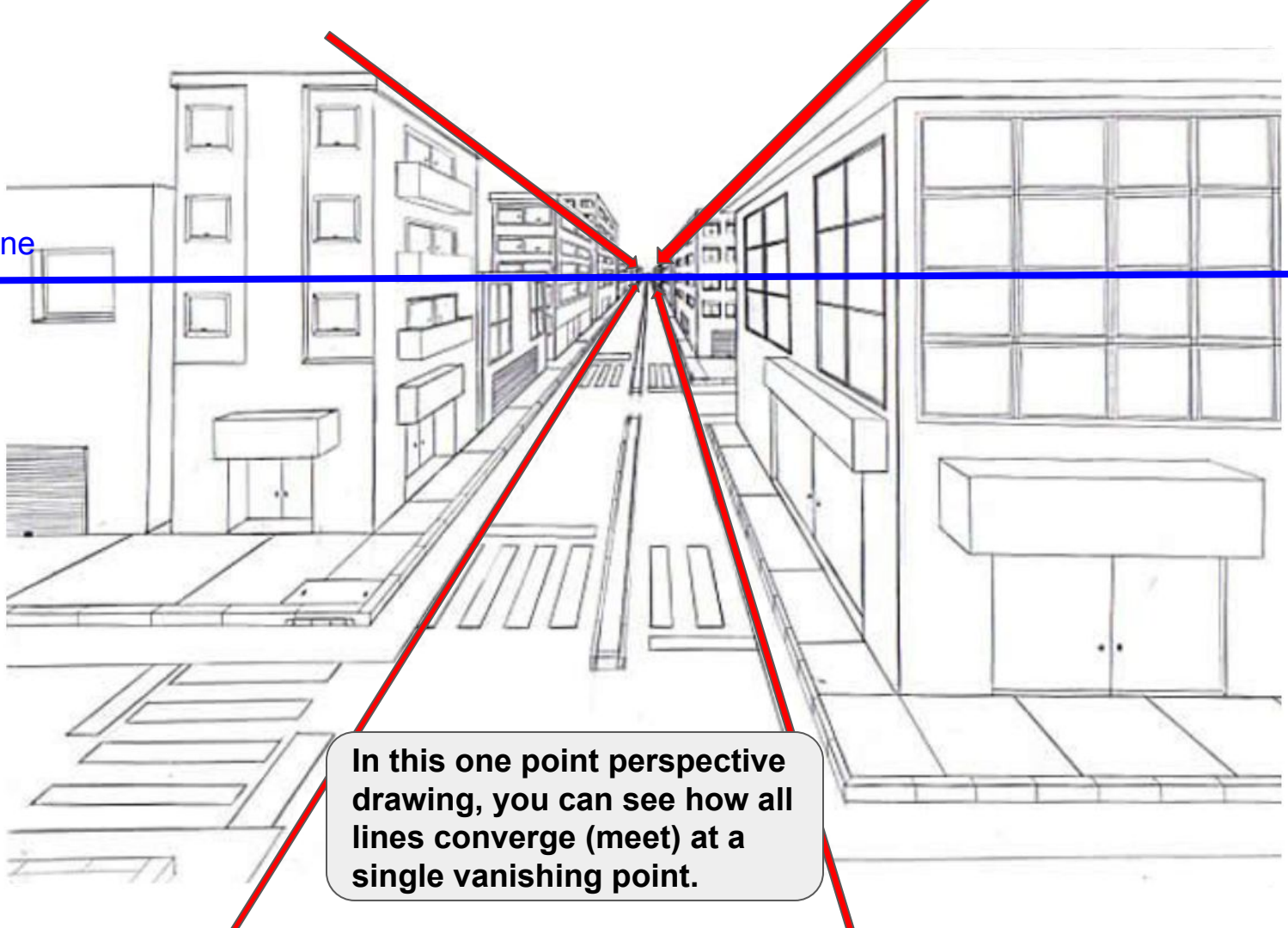
“...a mathematical system for representing three-dimensional objects and space on a two-dimensional surface by means of intersecting lines that are drawn vertically and horizontally and that radiate from one point on a horizon line...”

Although this definition sounds complicated, the concept is relatively simple. One point perspective is a drawing method that shows how things appear to get **smaller** as they get further away, converging (*coming together*) towards a single **‘vanishing point’** on the horizon line. It is a way of drawing objects upon a flat piece of paper (or other drawing surface) so that they look three-dimensional and realistic.



**One point perspective is easily understood by the photos on the left: See how the road and the train tracks seem to “meet” on the horizon?**

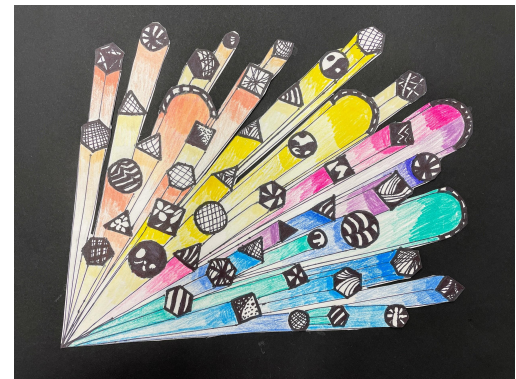
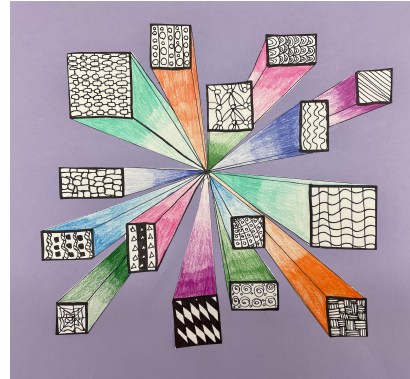
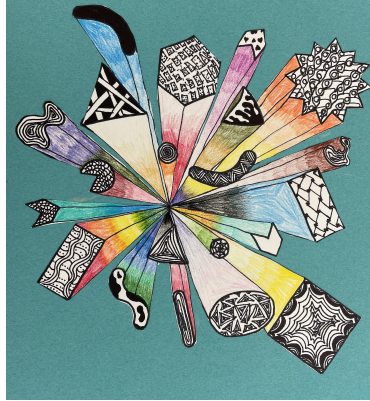
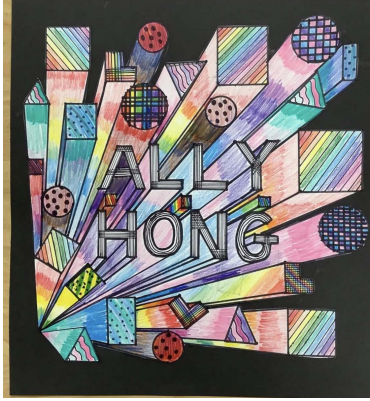
Horizon Line



In this one point perspective drawing, you can see how all lines converge (meet) at a single vanishing point.



For this lesson, we will be creating an optical illusion drawing of floating shapes, filled with pattern and color, that utilize one point perspective.



Student Examples



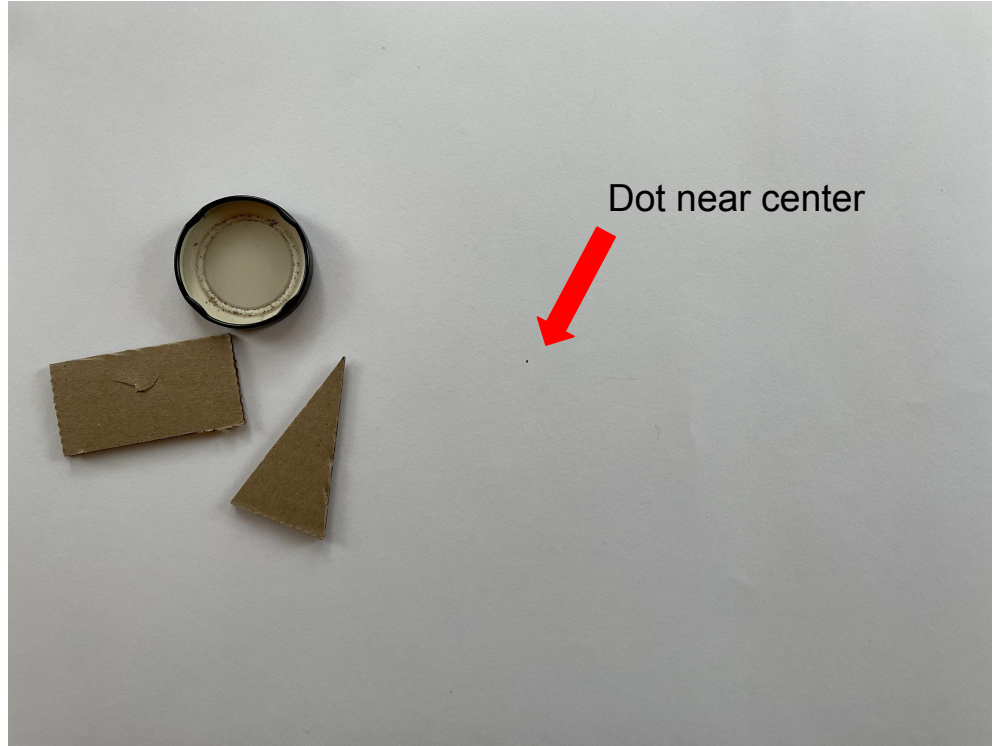
**We will be using the techniques described in these video clips:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4Mg6HWfdKM>

(These video clips were made by another teacher, so disregard the information she's saying that doesn't apply to you)



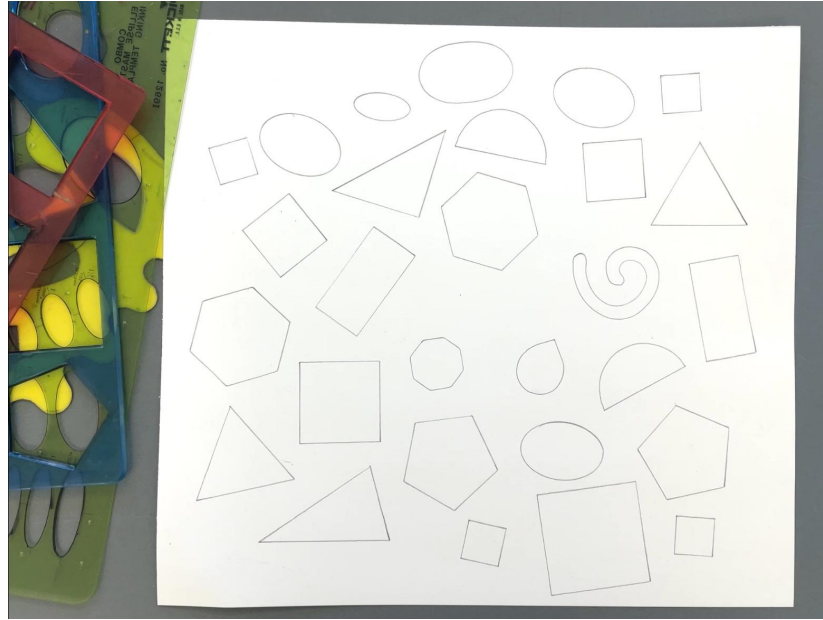
## Step 1: Set up and establish your vanishing point



Draw a tiny dot near the center of your paper. Gather small objects that you can use to trace. **(In class, we will be using stencils.)**

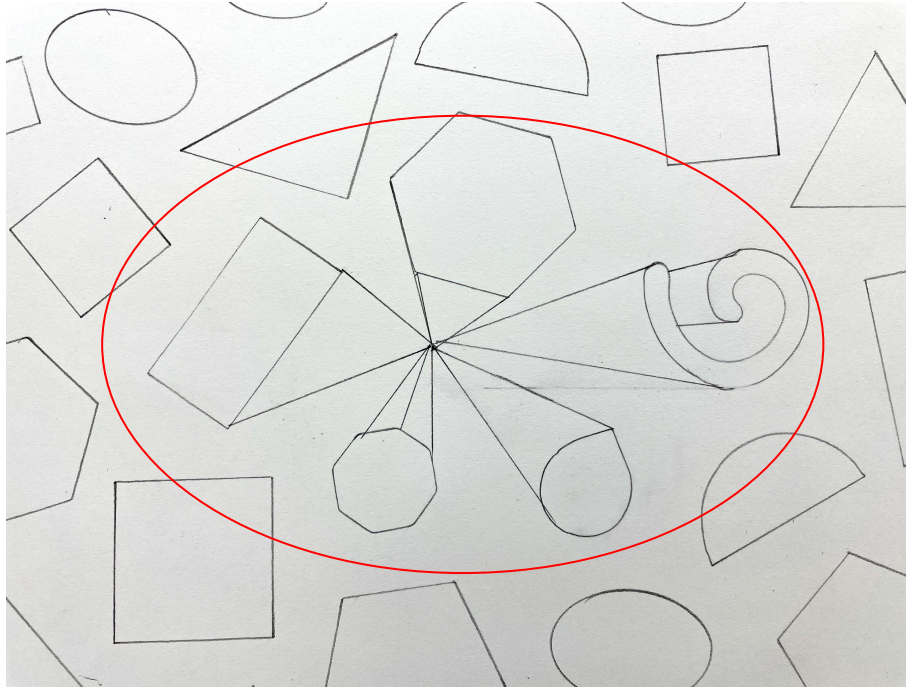


## Step 2: Tracing your shapes



- Trace shapes all over your paper, but be sure not to trace over your center dot **or** have any shapes going off the edge.
- You can have a variety of shapes, or repeat a single style. You can even free-hand draw some organic (curvy) shapes if you want.
- **It is very important to fill the space up and have your shapes be close without touching!**

### Step 3: 1-point perspective lines

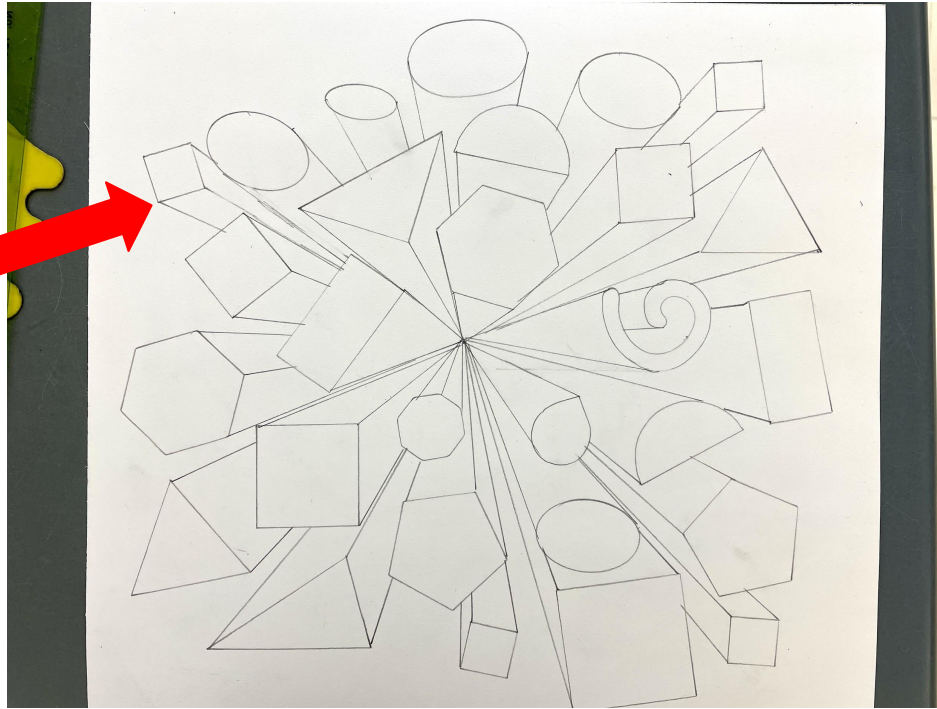


- Using the method described in the video we watched, use a pencil and a ruler to connect the corners of your shapes to the center dot.
- **Start with the shapes closest to the center.**
- For circles or organic shapes with no corners, connect the outermost edge to the center dot.



## Step 4: Continue 1-Point Perspective lines

Believable overlap  
created by  
STOPPING THE LINES  
when you reach  
a shape that's closer  
to the center



- Continue connecting the corners/edges of your shapes to the center dot with a pencil and ruler.
- As you work towards the outermost shapes, be sure to STOP your lines when you run into a shape that's closer to the center. This will create a believable overlapping effect.

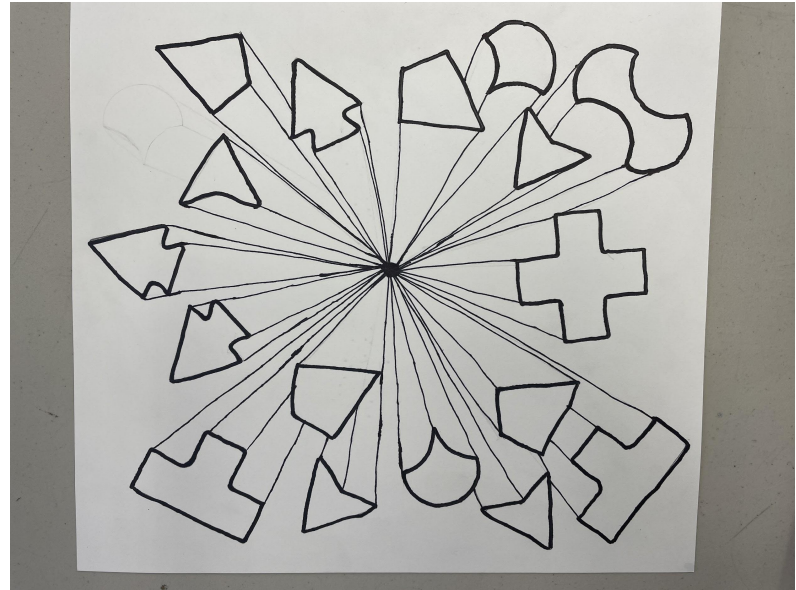
### Step 5: Sharpie

**Neatly go over your shapes and lines with Sharpie.**

- Thick Sharpie for the shapes.
- Thin Sharpie for the side lines.

OOPS!

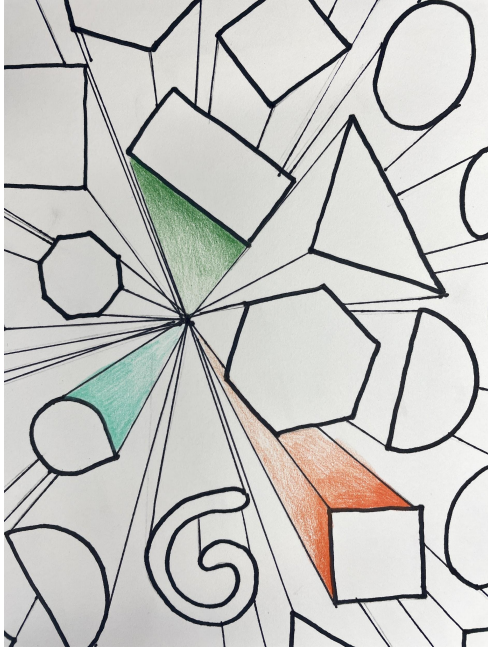
I forgot to take a photo of my example! Here's a student's work, all Sharpied!



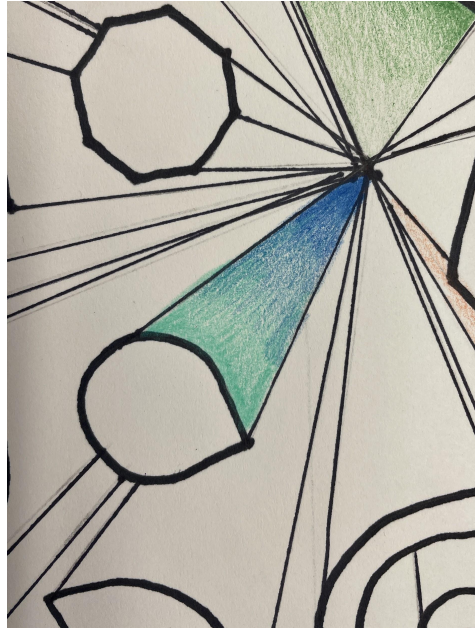


## Step 6: Color

We will use **color pencils** to fill in the sides of all our shapes. We want to show a range of VALUE, (lights and darks,) by varying the pressure of the pencils and/or creating blending effects with two colors.



**One Color** Value Transitions

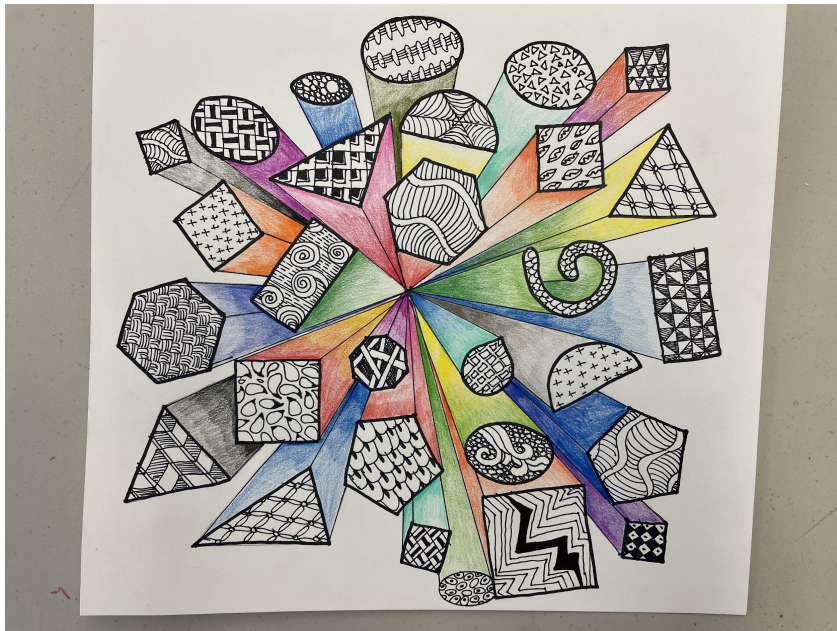


**TWO COLOR** Value transition  
(teal/blue fading in opposite  
ways, and overlapping slightly)



**COLOR ALL DONE!**

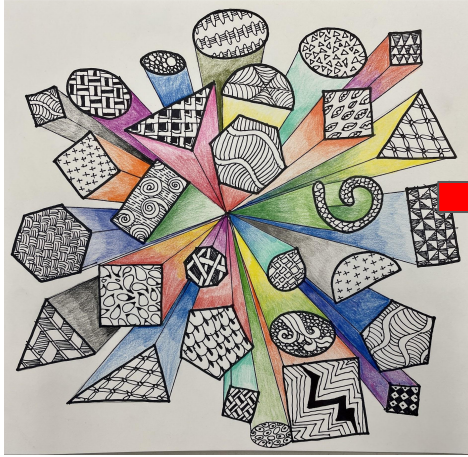
## Step 7: PATTERNS!



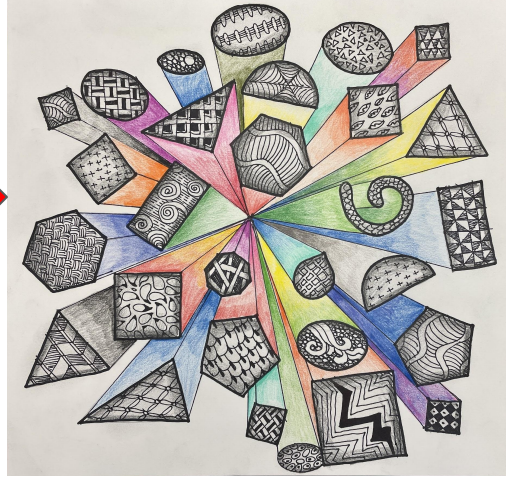
- All your shapes will be filled with patterns. You may make up some patterns, but I also want you to use some of the ZENTANGLE resources provided separately!
- Try to fill each shape all the way to the edge.
- Use thin Sharpie, but if a pattern requires a large area to be filled in black, you may use thick Sharpie
- **TIP:** Try planning out complex patterns with pencil first.



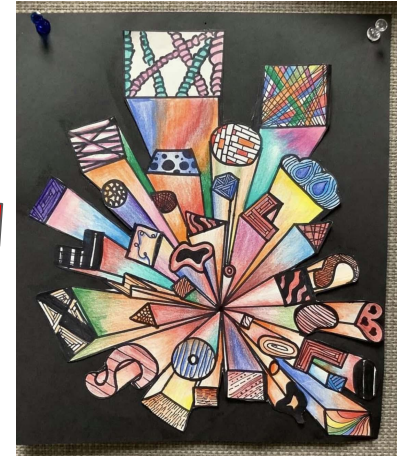
**Step 8: OPTIONAL! Coloring or Shading your Shapes!**



No Color/Shading



With **Ebony Pencil** Shading  
on shapes



Other examples With **Colored Pencil** on Shapes!



### Final Step:

Carefully cut out your design, and use a glue stick to attach it to black or colored paper!

*TIP: Place it under a heavy book for a few minutes to let the glue set!*