

How to draw Graffiti style words

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Supplies: pencil, paper, eraser, and markers, color pencils, or other coloring tools.

How lightly can you draw? You'll want to draw as lightly as you can for steps #1-5. These steps are just a sketch which you will be erasing.

1. Choose a word.

What is a word that is important to you? This could be your name, or a code name you make up for yourself, or a word that is important that you want other people to see and think about.

If this is your first time, start with a short word.

2. Draw two straight lines for the top and bottom of your word. These are your guide lines.

3. Draw each letter in two dimensions. Use rectangles, or "bars," instead of lines to draw your letters. These are your block letters.

4. Add shapes on the outside of the letters to change the look of the letters.

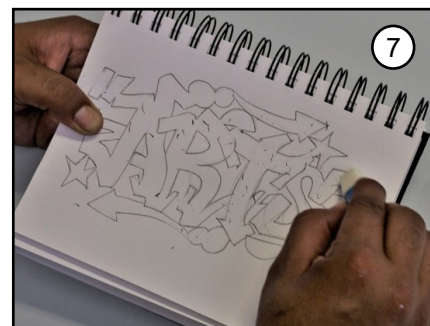
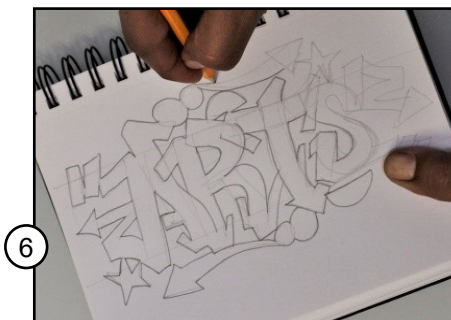
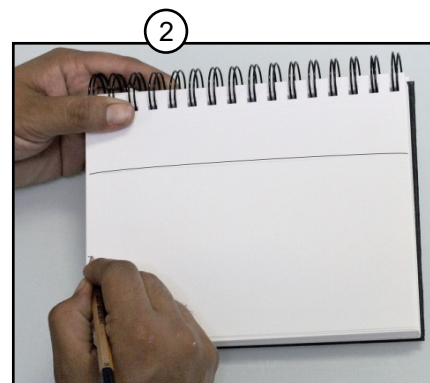
5. Pay attention to composition and symmetry. If you draw a shape on one side of the word, you might want to draw the same shape on the other side. This will keep your art balanced.

6. Trace the outside lines in a darker pencil.

As you do this, you will decide which letters are in front and which letters are behind. This is part of the magic of art.

7. Erase all the sketch marks and the lines on the inside of the letters.

Clear off the eraser debris.



8. Choose two or three colors that go well together.

When you wake up in the morning you look at the weather and wear clothes that match your feeling.

What colors does your word want to wear?

9. Create the fill. Fill the inside space of the letters with color.

Color in the whole space, cover all the white space all the way to the edge.

Notice how the whole word is being colored as one piece. It is one word with one meaning.

10. On top of the colors you already have, add shapes and patterns inside the letters.

You can even draw patterns on top of patterns.

11. Now use a dark color to draw your outline.

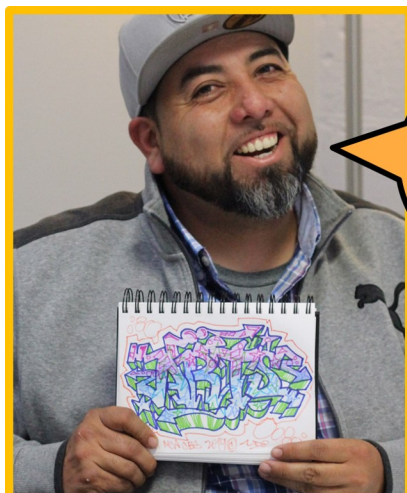
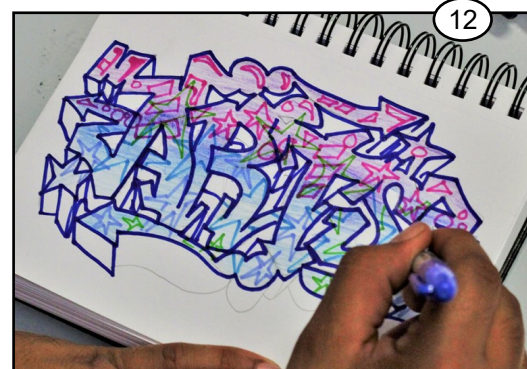
Your letter may be really complex, so this part could be difficult.

12. You can stop here or you could make it three dimensional by adding depth. Draw a line below all your bottom lines, then connect it at every corner.

13. Fill in the 3D part with a bright color. Make all your marker strokes go in the same direction.

14. Draw an outline around the whole word to create an outer force field.

15. Sign your artwork.



"That came out a lot better than I expected it to come out!"