

Self-Portrait Assignment using Adobe Illustrator
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Drawing a self-portrait in Adobe Illustrator is a common and fun assignment. The possibilities are endless as you seek ways to express a central message. You can communicate through facial expression, composition, and color choice. Much of this project will be open to your interpretation. You are free to choose how you will be depicted in your image. Strong projects start with an idea that you would like to communicate. This idea may evolve through the process, but should be picked prior to beginning the planning for this project.

New Learning and Project Preparation:

While thinking of an idea, you will complete a tutorial that will have you tracing from a photograph from the first time.

In fact, because inspirational images can provide a lot of information about the style you want to use, gathering inspirations might actually be more important than the sketches themselves. Try to gather inspirational images that are appealing to you and are linked in style or color scheme. Search for terms such as "Vector Portrait", "Illustrator Portrait", etc. Searching for "self portrait" might limit your results. Using "portrait" will include images people made of themselves (self portraits) and images people made of other people (portraits).

Finding Images/Works Cited

It is ALWAYS best when you can shoot your own photography for projects like this. We have scanners, lighting, photo booths, and several digital cameras available. You may use some images from approved [Creative Commons](#) websites. However, no more than 50% of your image should be from the internet. Half or more should come from images that you create yourself. This can

include photos you take, textures you scan, or images you paint directly in Photoshop.

Project management skills

- Planning and creating a portrait: colors, composition, facial features, level of details
- Organizing and managing files from a variety of sources
- Managing and organizing a complex, multi-layered document
- Manage multiple assignments within a single project unit

Design skills

- Understanding image composition
- Understanding level of detail as a communication tool
- Understanding color as a communication tool

Research and communication skills

- Communicating a clear, intended message
- Communicating with correct terminology
- Understanding image copyright, usage rights, and Creative Commons
- Analyzing and assessing inspirations to solve visual problems
- Finding new techniques or other information when needed for your specific project.

Technical skills

- Using digital cameras and photo lighting
- Importing and working with various file formats
- Working with layers, paths, and Illustrator Tools