Space, Perspective, & Proportion

Vocabulary

- Line
- Shape
- Form
- Parallel
- Converge
- Horizon Line
- Vanishing Point
- Orthogonal Lines
- Space
- Proportion
- Perspective
  - Linear Perspective
  - Aerial Perspective
- Foreshortening
- Overlap

History of Perspective

Egyptian Wall Painting. 2548-1350 B.C.

History of Perspective - Credit is given to Renaissance artist Filippo Brunelleschi for developing the type of one point perspective used by artists today.

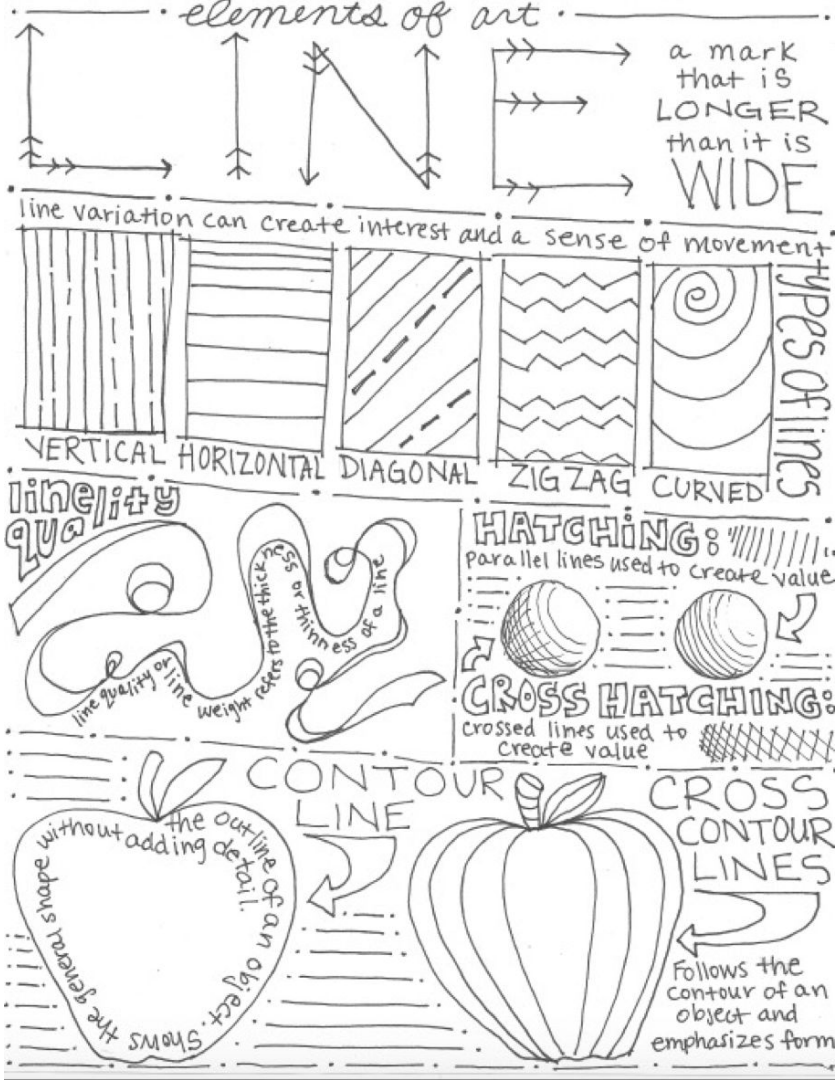
Leonardo da Vinci. *The Last Supper*. 1499.

Gustave Caillabotte. *La place de l'Europe, temps de pluie*; 1877

Thomas Cole. *View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm.* 1836.

Line

Review your elements sheet about line.



Shape

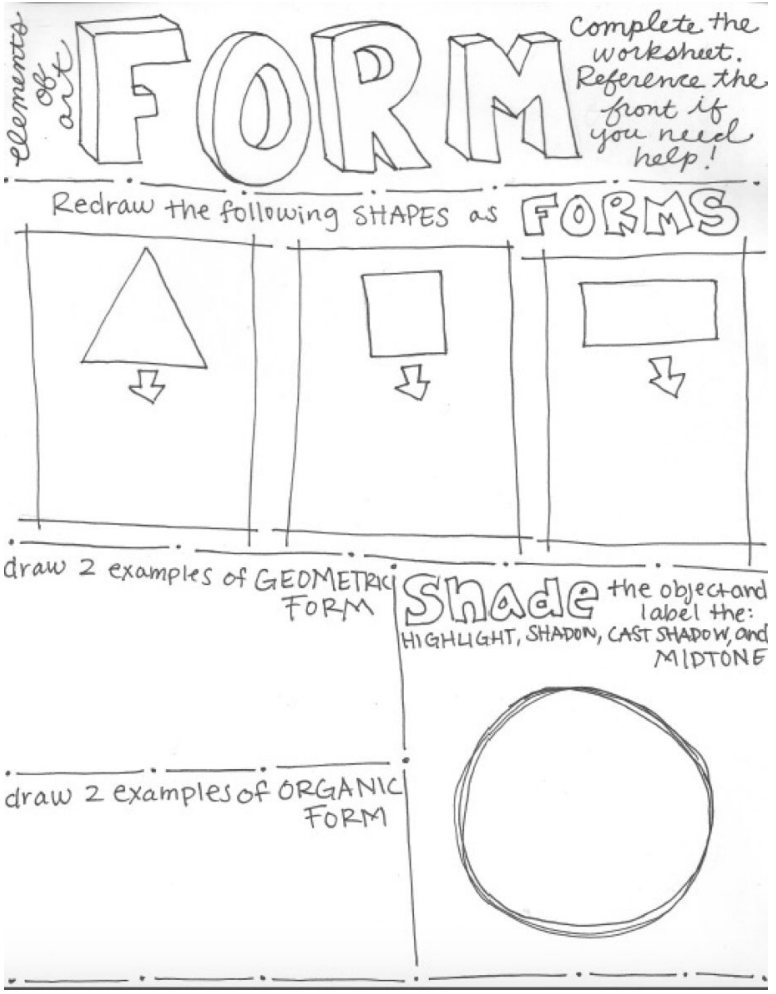
Review your elements sheet about shape.

Form (Click for link)

Learn about the element of form by reading the worksheet.

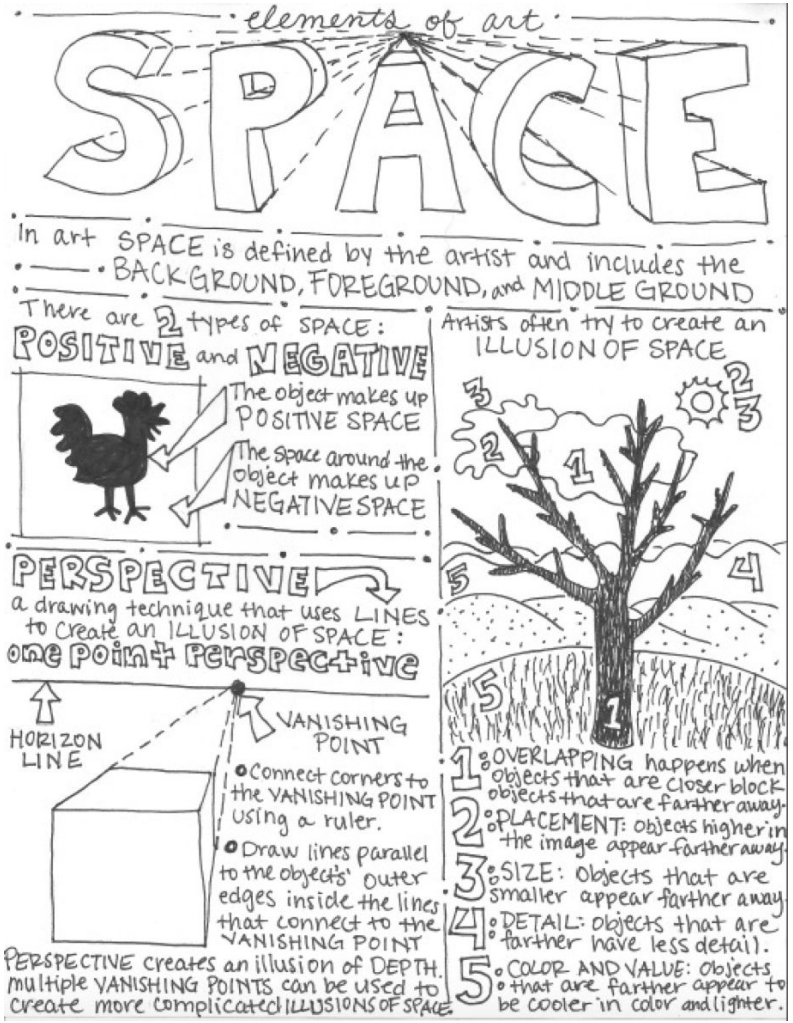
Form (click for link)

Complete your elements sheet about form and turn it in on Google Classroom.



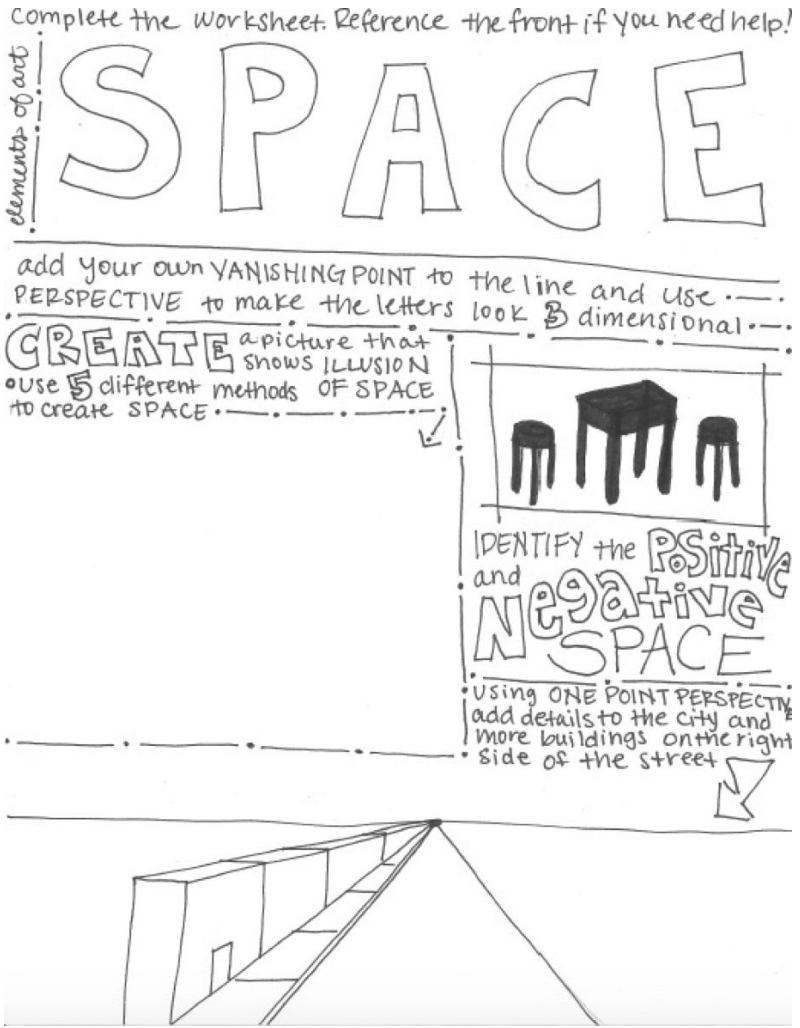
Space (click for link)

Learn about the element of space by reading the worksheet.



Space (click for link)

Complete your elements sheet about space and turn it in on Google Classroom.



How does this artist show space?

John Sloan, *South Beach Bathers*, 1907-08

How does this artist show space?

Background

Middleground

Foreground

John Sloan, *South Beach Bathers*, 1907-08

How does this artist show space?

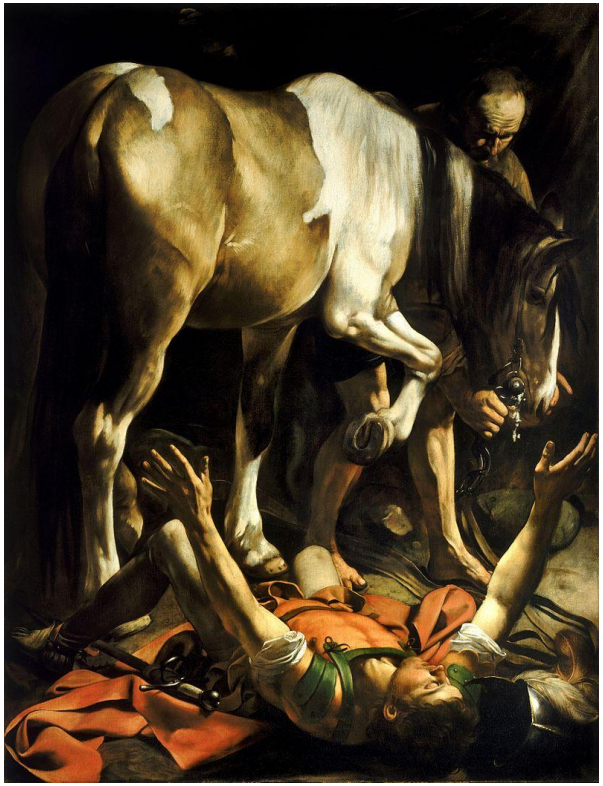
Depth

Strategies:

- Overlapping
- Position on the picture plane
- Relative size / Proportion
- Foreshortening

John Sloan, *South Beach Bathers*, 1907-08

Foreshortening



Andrea Mantegna, *Lamentation Over the Dead Christ*, c. 1475-78

Caravaggio, *Conversion of St. Paul*, c, 1600-01

Using Space to Manipulate Meaning

How does this artist use space to impact the meaning of the artwork?

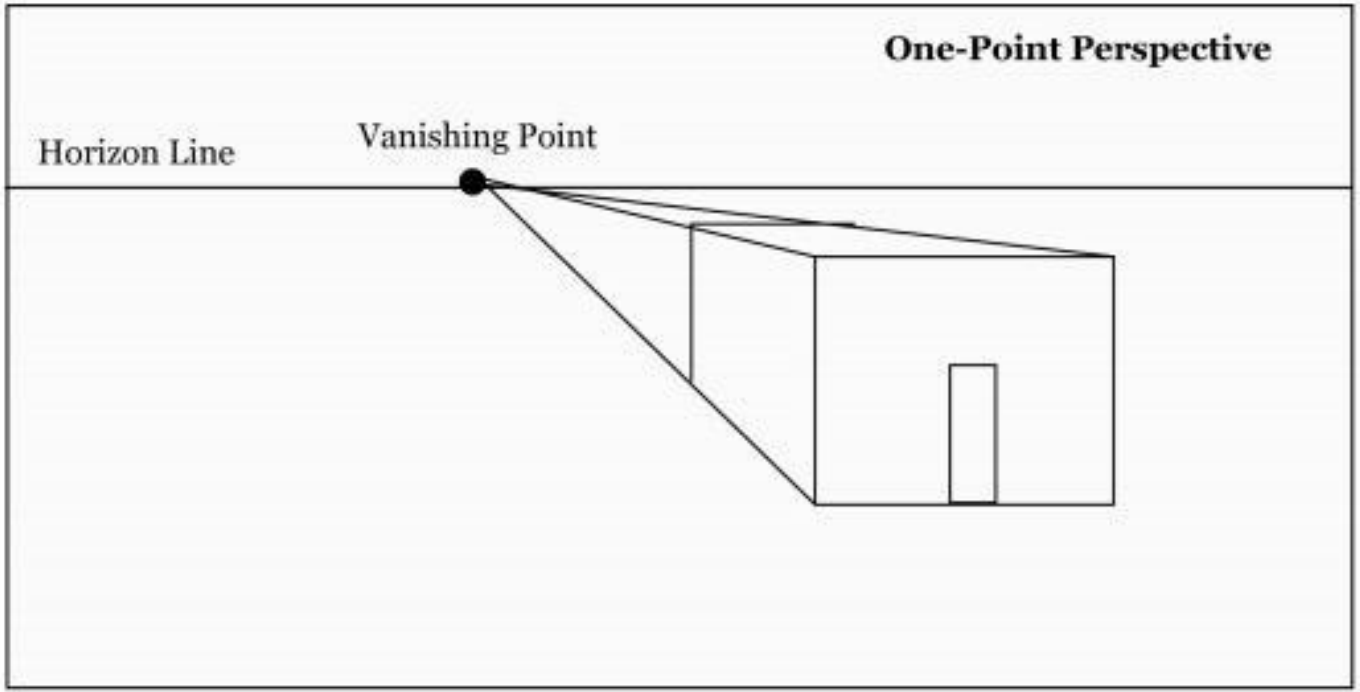
Andrew Wyeth, *Christina's World*, 1948

What is linear perspective?

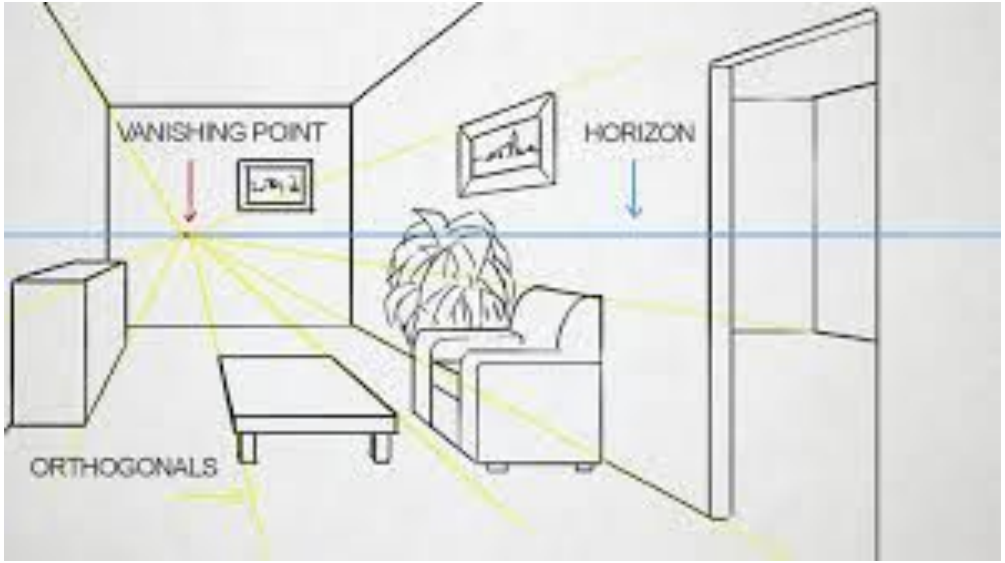
Linear perspective is a technique for representing 3-dimensional space on a 2-dimensional (paper) surface. This method was invented during the Renaissance when artists were trying to draw as realistically as possible. It is a mathematical system to show depth realistically. Linear perspective is based on the way the human eye sees the world. Things that are closer to us appear larger and things that are farther away appear smaller. To create this illusion the artist creates a vanishing point on the horizon line. Objects are drawn using orthogonal lines, which lead to the vanishing point(s).

What is linear perspective?

Things that are seen face on, which means you are looking at the front of them directly, are drawn in **one-point perspective** with a single **vanishing point.**



One point perspective is a drawing method that shows how things appear to get smaller as they get further away, converging 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.

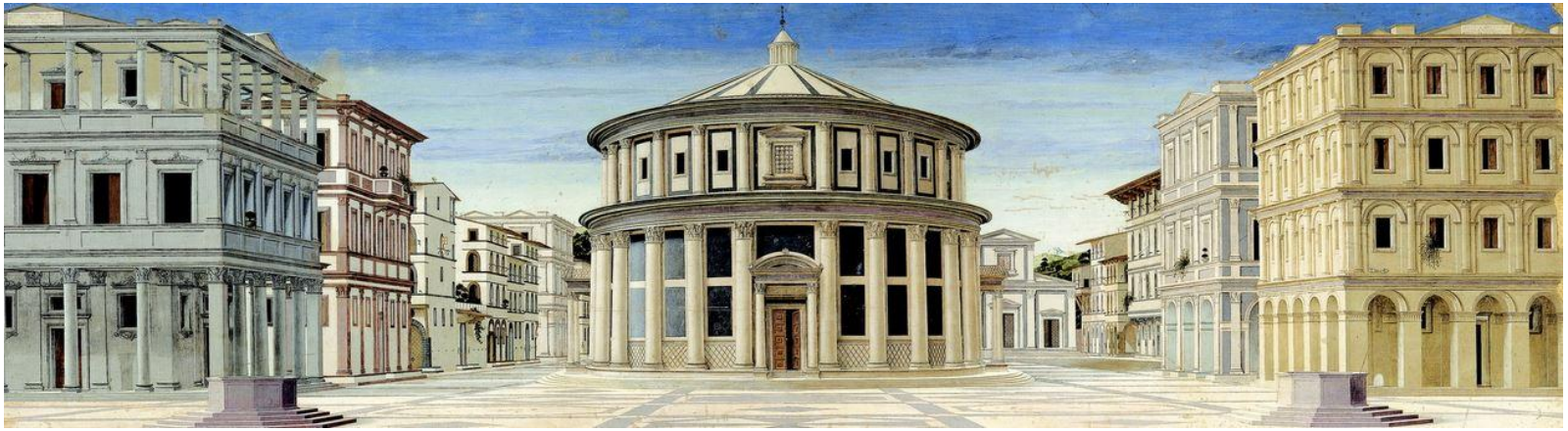


In one point perspective, surfaces that face the viewer appear as their **true shape**, without any distortion. They are drawn using primarily horizontal and vertical lines, as illustrated by the diagram below:

Linear Perspective

Dorothea Lange, *The Road West, New Mexico*, 1938

Linear Perspective Activity #1 (click for link)



1. Use a ruler and marker to trace the compositional lines from the architecture and ground.

1. Describe below your observations of the lines and how they are organized. What do you notice?

1. Why do you think the artist organized the lines in such a way?

The Ideal City, 1480s

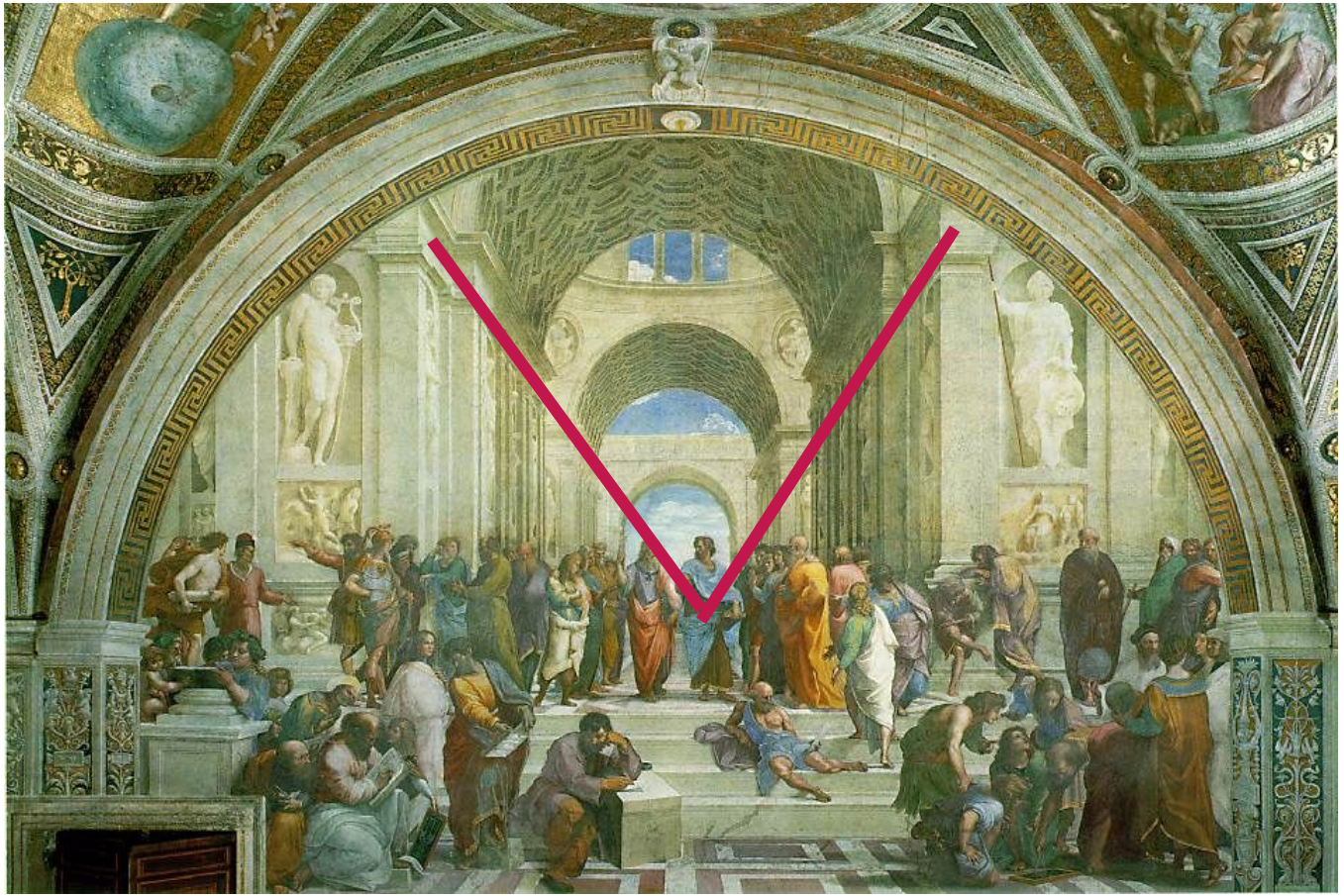
Linear Perspective

Raphael, *School of Athens*, 1510

Linear Perspective

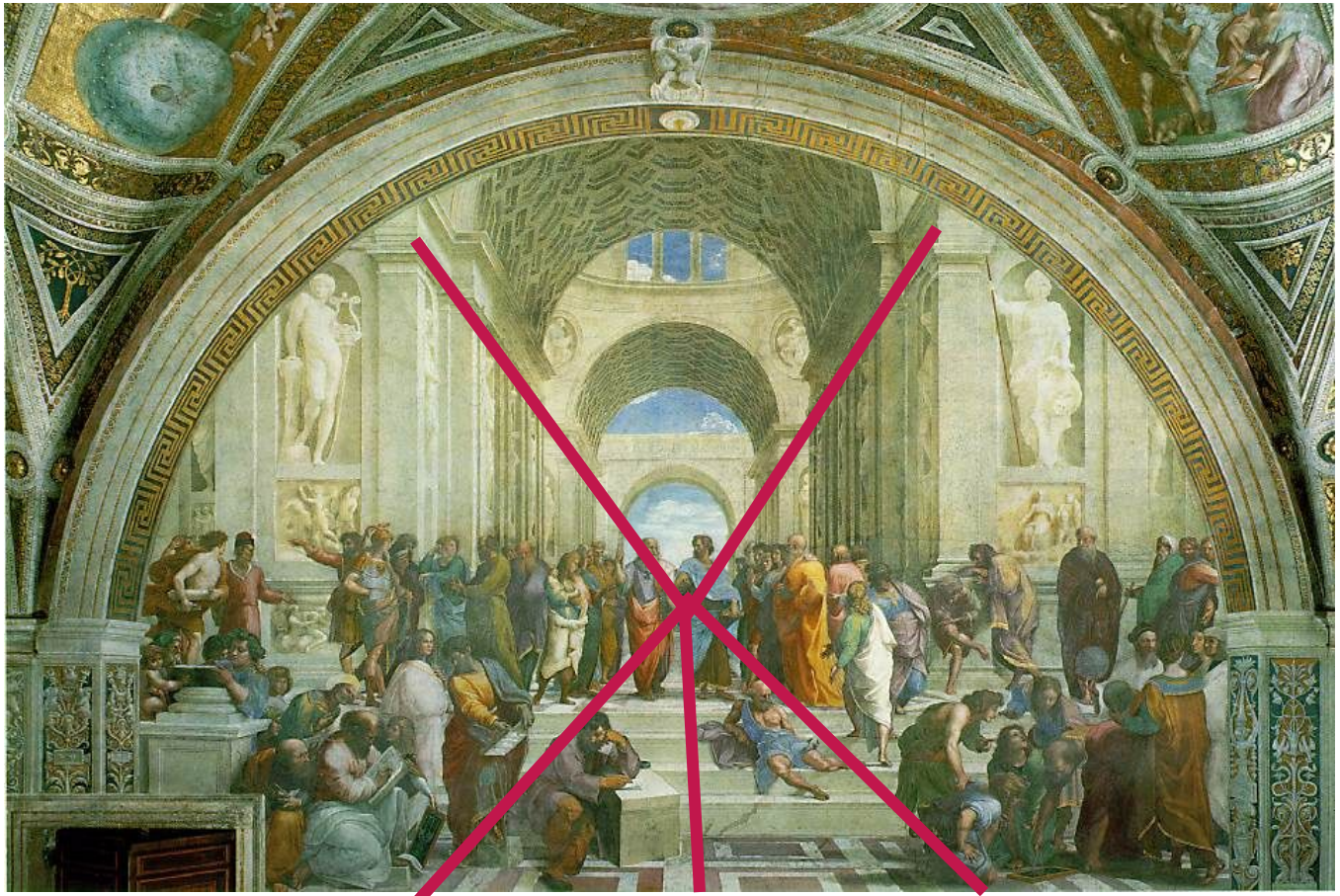
Raphael, *School of Athens*, 1510

Linear Perspective



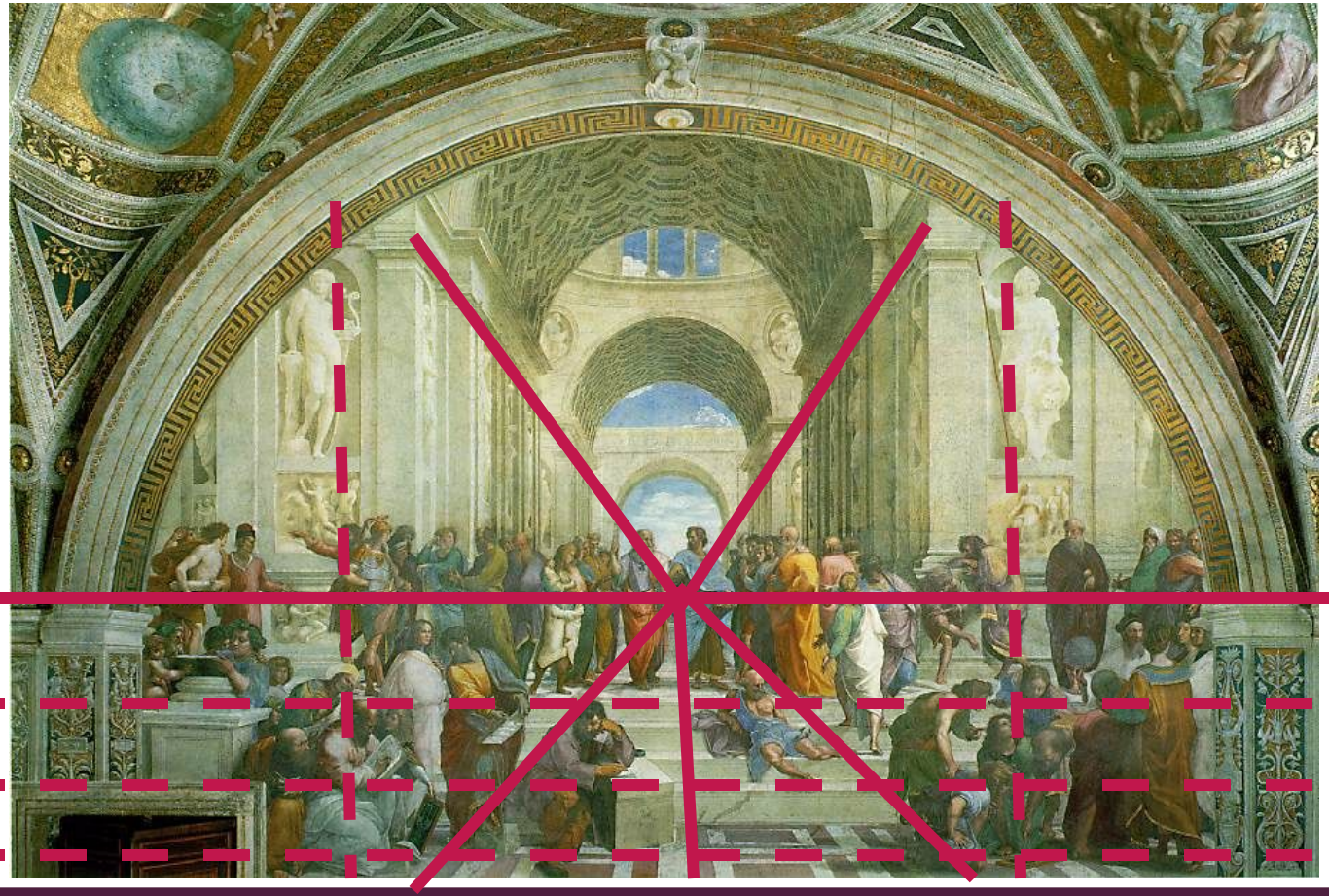
Raphael, *School of Athens*, 1510

Linear Perspective



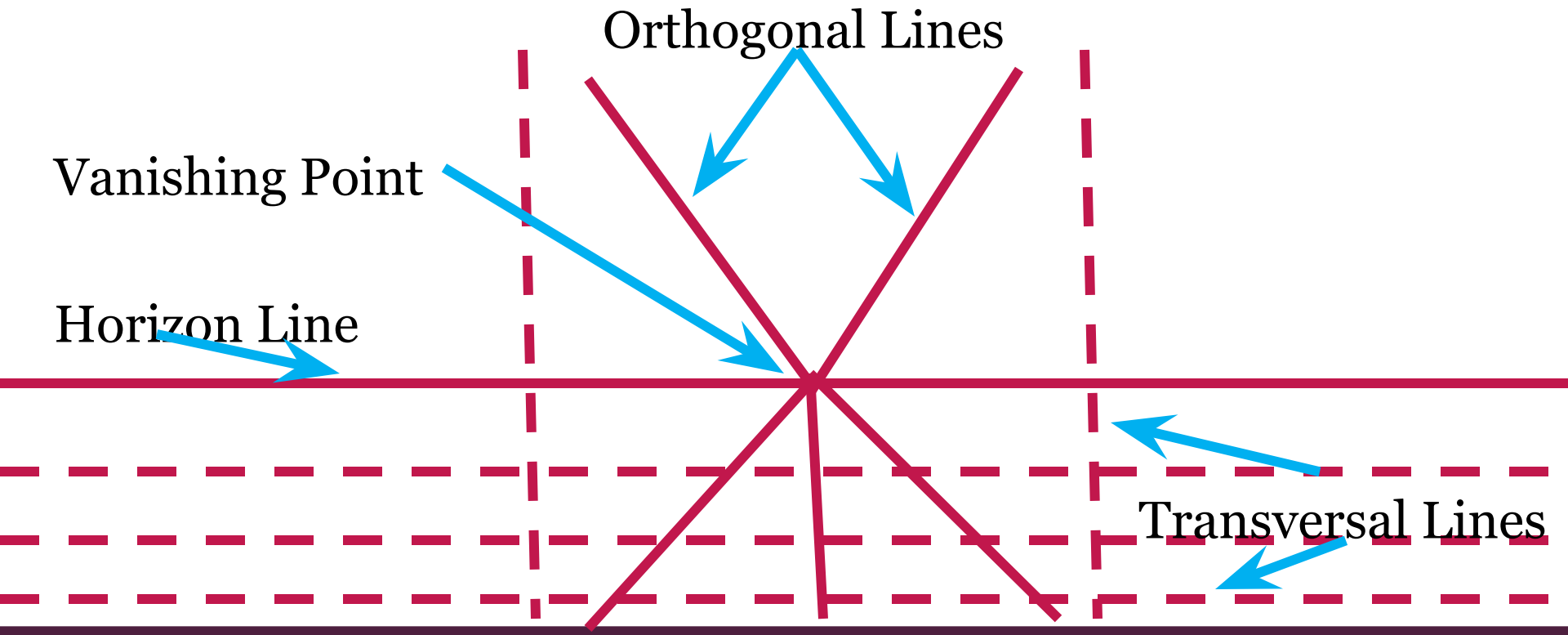
Raphael, *School of Athens*, 1510

Linear Perspective Activity



Raphael, *School of Athens*, 1510

Linear Perspective



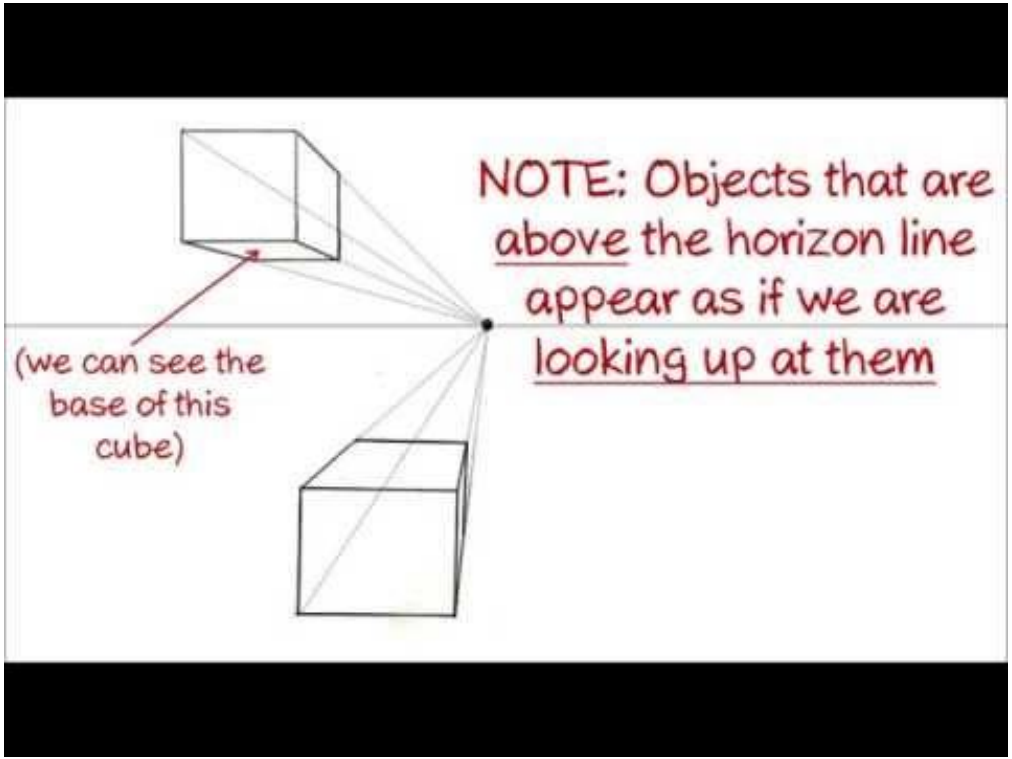
Raphael, *School of Athens*, 1510

Using Proportion to Manipulate Meaning

How does this artist use proportion to impact the meaning of the artwork?

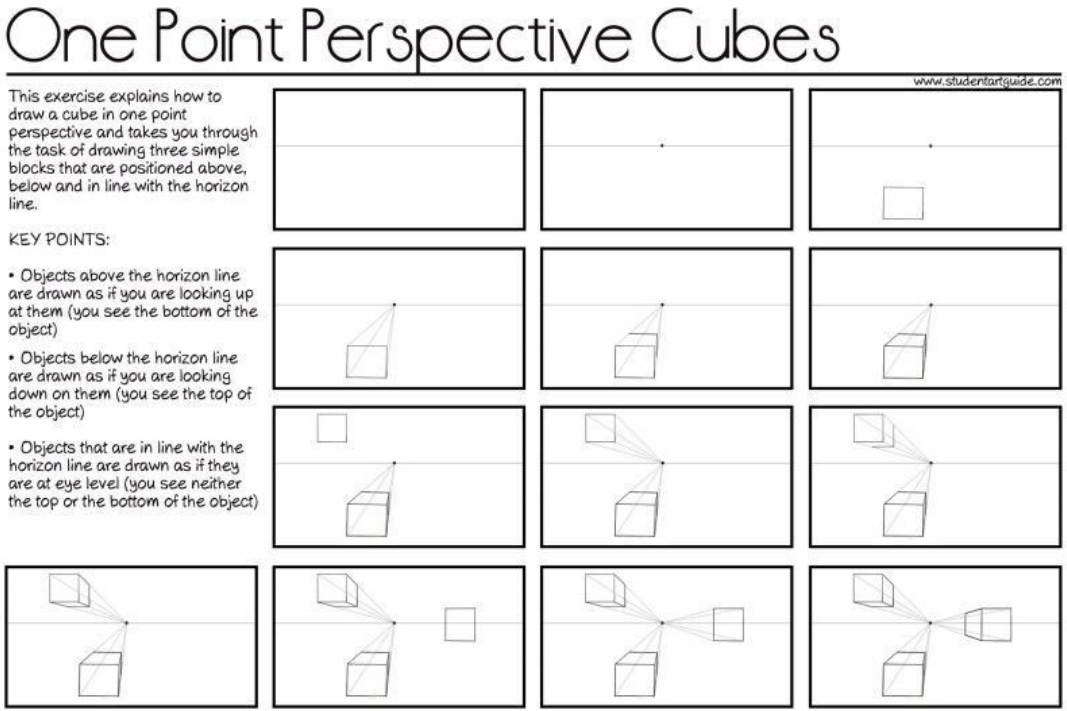
Ben Shahn, We French Workers Warn You..Defeat Means Slavery, Starvation, Death, 1942

Linear Perspective Activity #2



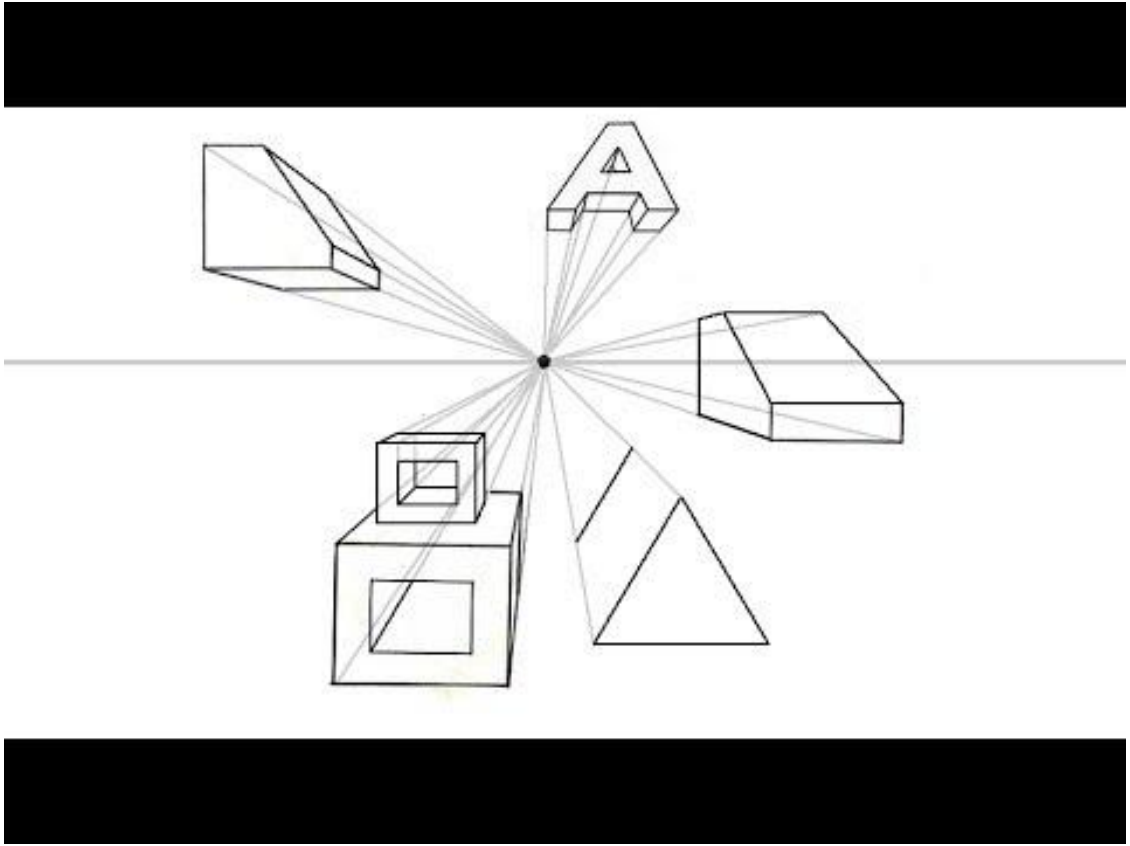
How to Draw a Cube in One-point Perspective

Linear Perspective Activity #3



One-point Perspective Cube Practice

Stacking Blocks, Cutting Holes, and Adding Angels



Linear Perspective Activity #4

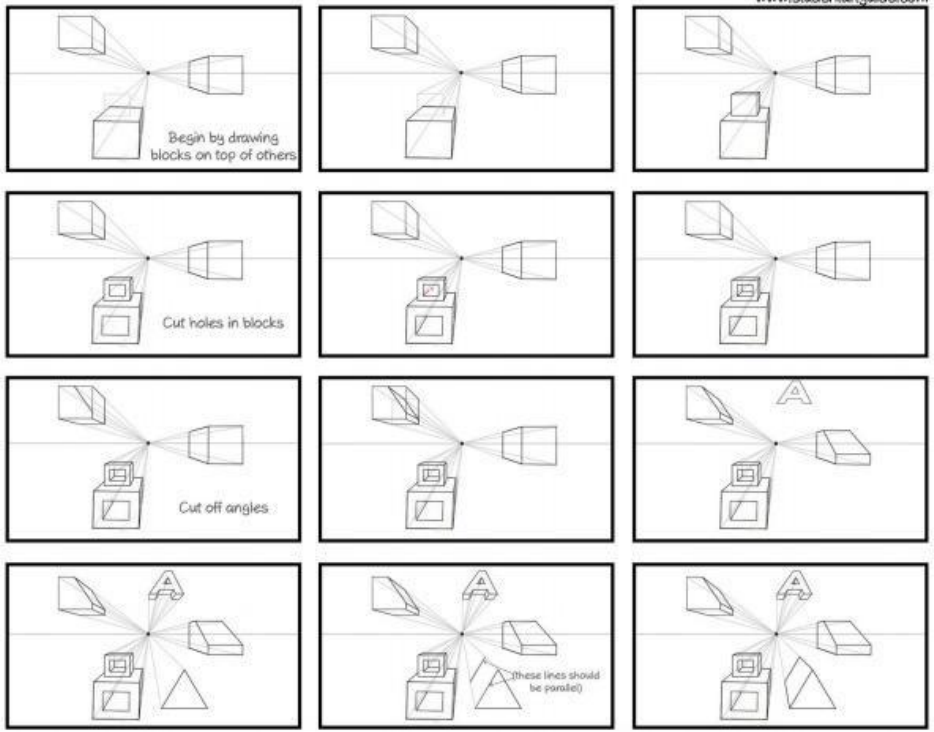
1 Point Perspective: Complex Forms

www.studentartguide.com

This worksheet helps you to move from drawing simple blocks to creating more complex forms, by stacking, cutting holes and adding unusual angles.

TASK:

- Begin by drawing a series of blocks in one point perspective, above and below the vanishing point
- Draw other blocks sitting on top or beside these blocks
- Draw rectangular holes cutting through some of the blocks. Remember you may need to draw construction lines to find where the back edge of the hole will be
- Slice off different edges of the blocks on unusual angles
- In the gaps around the blocks, add in more complicated forms, such as letters and triangular shaped blocks (extension activity)



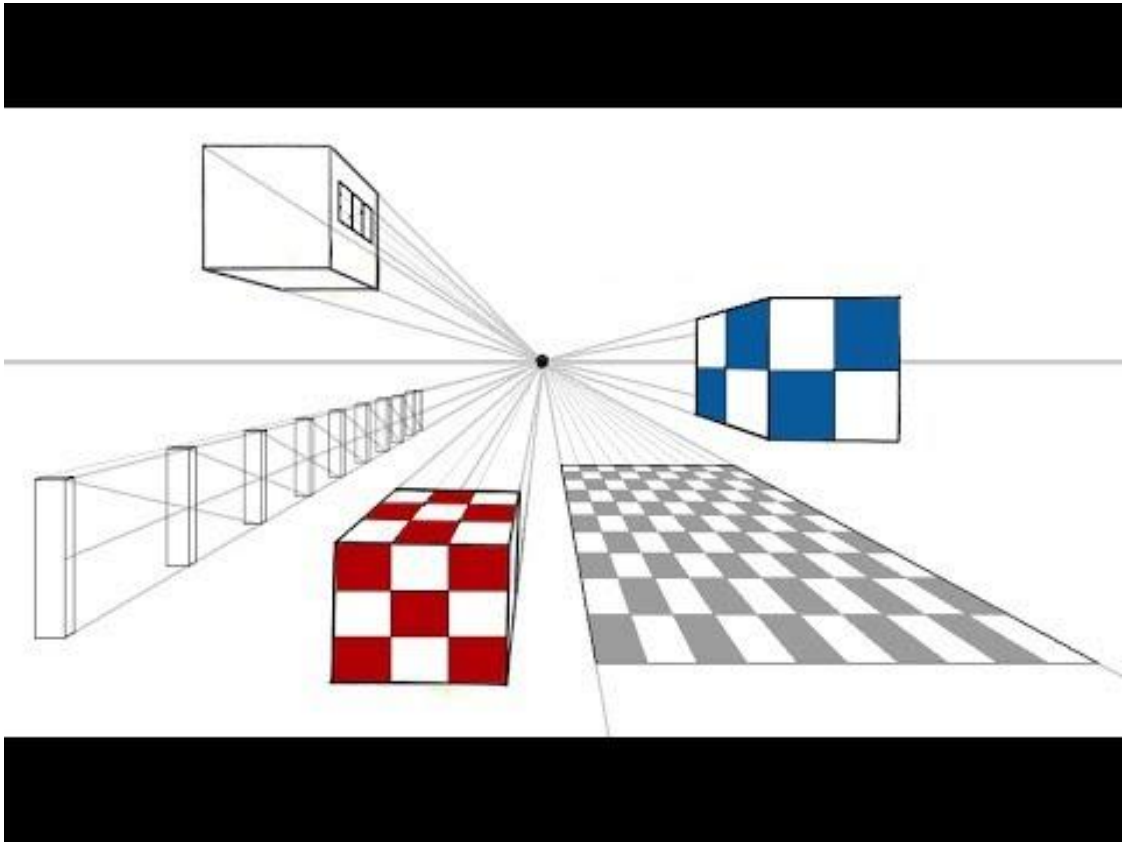
Using Perspective to Manipulate Meaning

How does this artist use perspective to impact the meaning of the artwork?

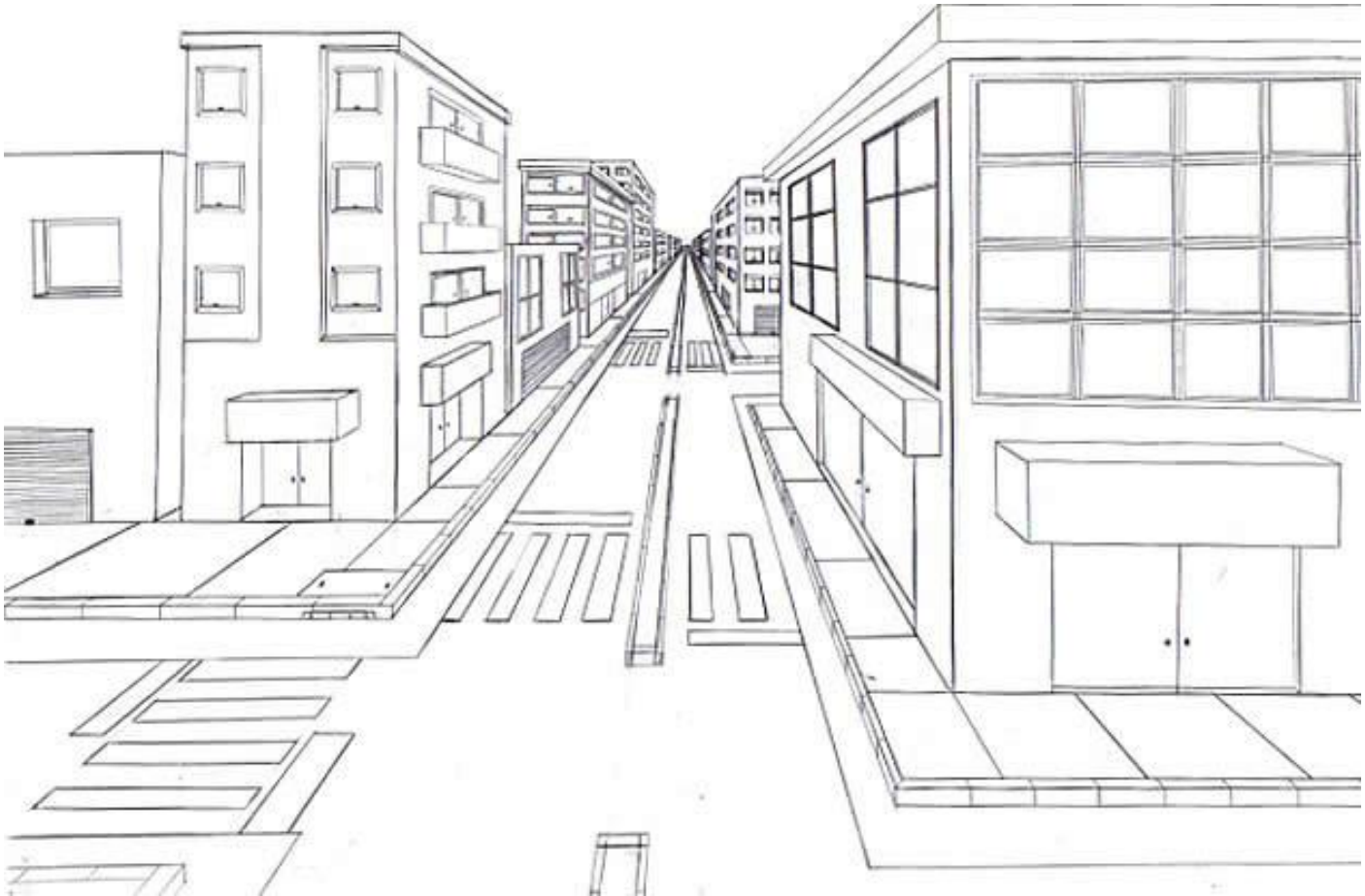
George Tooker, *The Subway*, 1950

Perspective Block Letters

Finding Centres and Equal Spaces

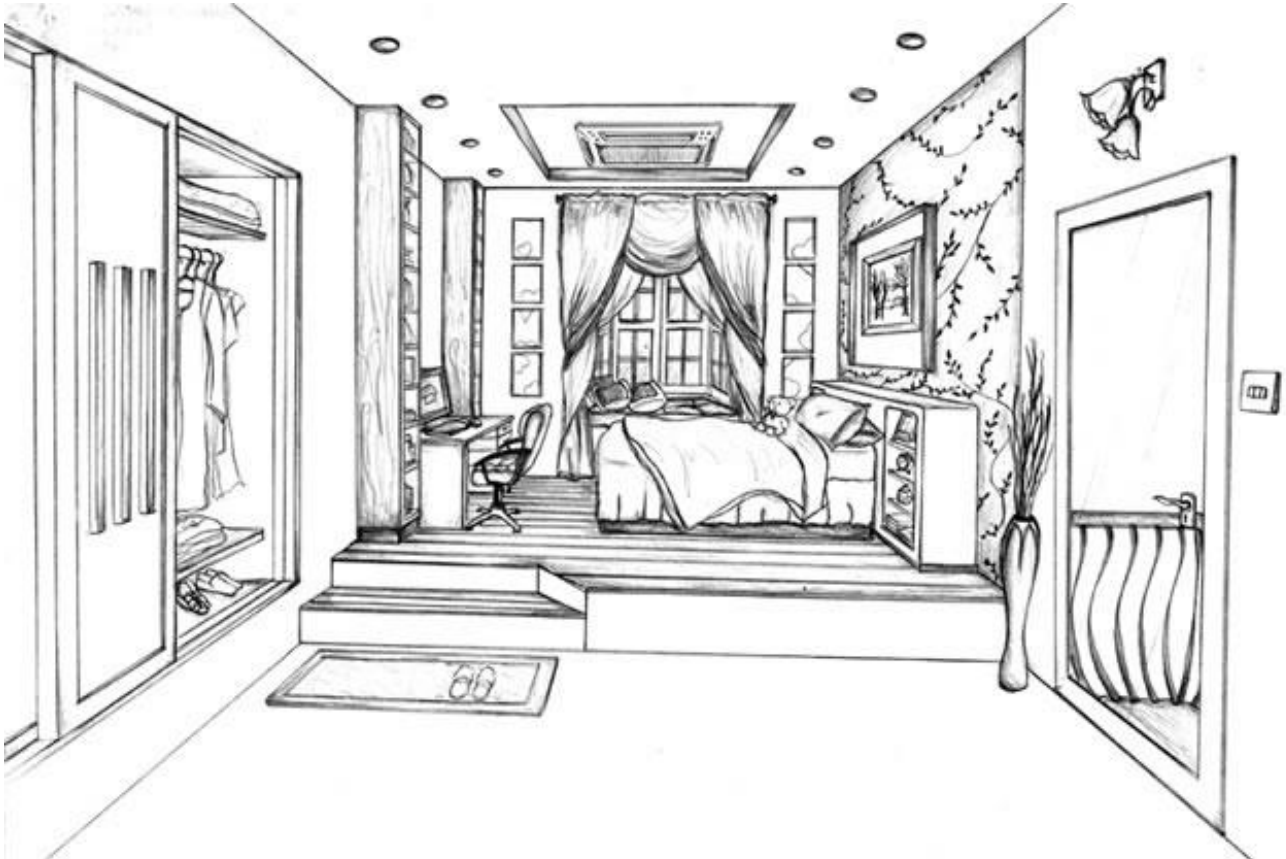


One-Point Perspective Cityscape

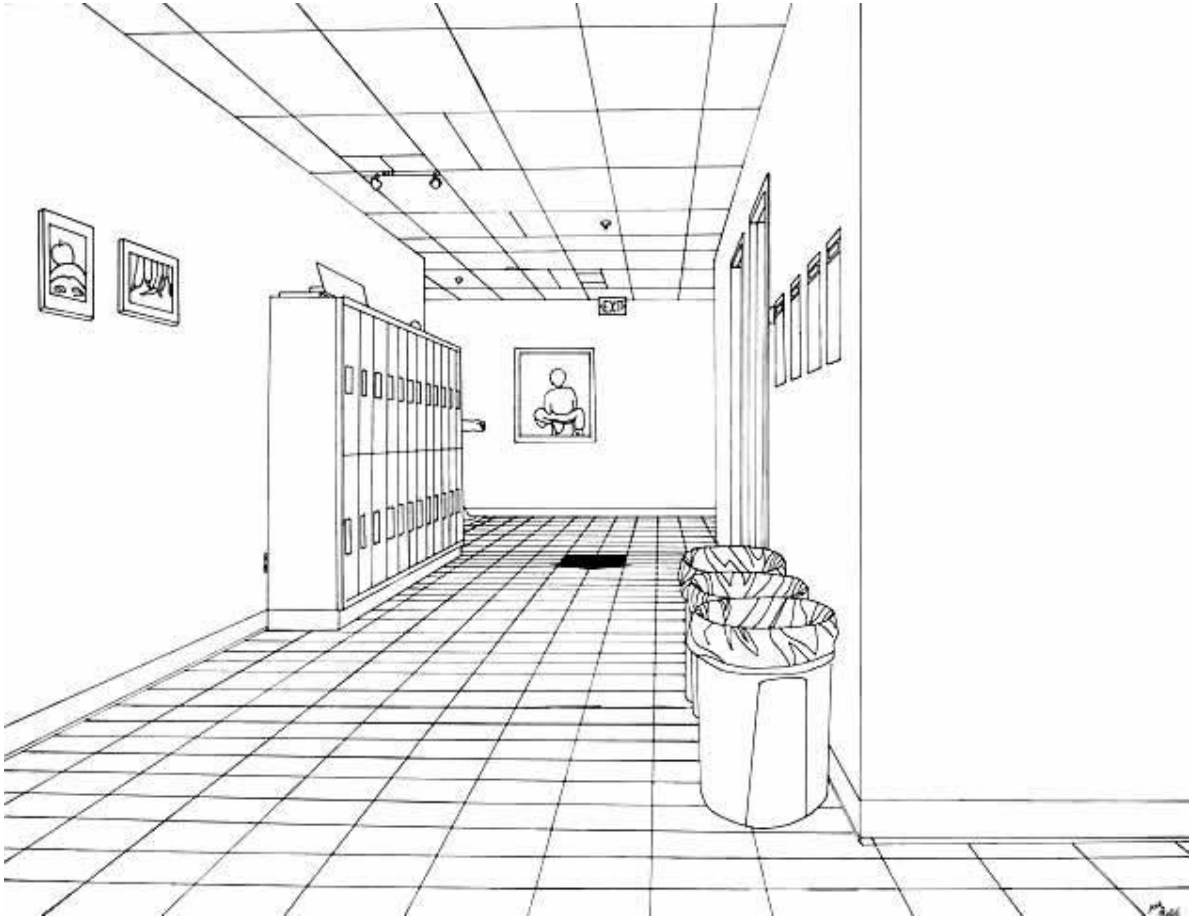


One-Point Perspective Room

One-Point Perspective Room



One-Point Perspective Hallway



Atmospheric Perspective is the technique of creating an illusion of depth by depicting distant objects as paler, less detailed, and usually bluer than near objects.

Vocabulary

- **Line** - is a mark with greater length than width. Lines can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal; straight or curved; thick or thin.
- **Shape** - is a closed line. Shapes can be geometric, like squares and circles; or organic, like free-form or natural shapes. Shapes are flat and can express length and width.
- **Form** - are three-dimensional shapes expressing length, width, and depth. Balls, cylinders, boxes, and pyramids are forms.
- **Parallel** - two lines that never intersect
- **Converge** - tend to meet at a point.
- **Horizon Line** - a horizontal line that runs across the paper or canvas to represent the viewer's eye level, or delineate where the sky meets the ground. It should rarely be in the center of the composition, but ideally placed about one-third of the way up or down the piece.

Vocabulary

- **Vanishing Point** - The point at which receding parallel lines viewed in perspective appear to converge.
- **Orthogonal Lines** - the diagonal **lines** that can be drawn along receding parallel **lines** (or rows of objects) to the vanishing point.
- **Space** - is the area between and around objects. The space around objects is often called negative space; negative space has shape. Space can also refer to the feeling of depth. Real space is three-dimensional; in visual art, when we create the feeling or illusion of depth, we call it space.
- **Proportion** - is the feeling of unity created when all parts (sizes, amounts, or number) relate well with each other.
- **Perspective** - an **art** technique for creating an illusion of three-dimensions (depth and space) on a two-dimensional (flat) surface.

Vocabulary

- **Linear Perspective** - a system of creating an illusion of depth on a flat surface.
- **Aerial Perspective** - the technique of creating an illusion of depth by depicting distant objects as paler, less detailed, and usually bluer than near objects

- **Foreshortening** - the technique of depicting an object or human body in a picture so as to produce an illusion of projection or extension in space.
- **Overlap** - extend over so as to cover partly