

Ms. Jasiulek's 15 Tips for Realistic Shading

1. **Avoid pressing hard with the pencil**, instead create dark areas by layering more and more graphite on the paper.
2. Keep your pencil marks even and close together.
3. Work from light to dark. *It's difficult to erase dark marks.*
4. Use the side of your pencil instead of the tip.
5. Think in three dimensions and visualize the way light will hit your subject.
6. Use a blending stick (tortillon) to create a smooth transition of light to dark. Avoid using your finger.
7. Check your proportions before blending to make sure they are correct. It will be harder to erase after you blend.
8. Use a clean, fresh blending stick, especially for the lightest areas. Clean your blending stick by rubbing it on fine sandpaper.
9. To lighten too dark areas, or to reclaim highlights, use an eraser.
10. Work slowly; don't rush.
11. Use a variety of pencils to create a full range of values.
12. Create smooth transitions between shadows, shades, and highlights.
13. Don't be afraid to go dark. The only areas that should be pure white are the highlights. Try making the darkest shadows as deep as you can, then adjust the rest of your values accordingly.
14. Shade with the **point** of your pencil allows for more control, ability to add detail, and a greater range of gray.
15. Shade with the **side** of your pencil is softer and covers a large area quickly.