

## Activity

# DISCOVER DESIGN I

land art generator initiative powered by art!

## TOOLS

- Drawing supplies
- **DOWNLOAD** LAGI Discover Design Presentation
- Projector and/or computer screen

## DESCRIPTION

Students learn about elements and principles of design. Students experiment with quick 2D composition to better understand the application of composition terms in abstract drawings.

## GOALS

1. Demonstrate understandings of basic design principles
2. Experiment freely with line and shape

## TIME TO COMPLETE ACTIVITY

30–45 minutes

## STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

### Step 1

Instructor draws four quadrants on the board. In each one, the instructor makes a simple shape or line. Four students are each given a slip of paper with a keyword. Inspired by their key word, they are then called up to complete each image (one student per quadrant) and return to their seats once they feel that their sketch is complete.

Keyword examples:

Mechanical, Organic, Purposeful, Playful, and Meandering. Feel free to pick others.

### Step 2

Instructor shows the **LAGI Discover Design** presentation to the group.

### Step 3

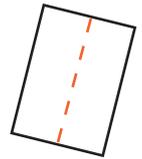
The instructor introduces some composition terms such as **symmetry and balance**, **solid and void**, **vertical and horizontal**, **curved and linear**. For each, the instructor can explain or demonstrate these terms by either referencing the sketches that are already on the board (if relevant) or with reference to the presentation slides.

**Step 4** (10 minutes)

In pairs, students pick up sheets of letter-size (8 1/2" x 11") or A4 paper and fold them in half three times, creating a creased grid of eight boxes. Then they mimic the example on the board by taking turns drawing lines in a box, trading with their partner to complete each image in a different way. Students should be thinking about each of the composition terms from the presentation and incorporating them into their drawings. Drawings can be figural or abstract.

**Step 5** (5 minutes)

Each student pair takes a new sheet of letter-size (8 1/2" x 11") or A4 paper and folds it in half as shown here. They then pick one of their sketches to develop into a composition using this half-size sheet. The pair works on the composition collaboratively by taking turns using one drawing utensil.



**Step 6** (10 minutes)

The instructor leads the entire group in discussion about the results of the exercise. Students are asked to comment about what they like about each and what elements or principles of design they see in their sketch. Students are also asked to reflect on their collaboration and how the result may differ from a drawing that they would have made on their own.

**Next Step**

After a break or on another day, continue with **Discover Design II**. The sketches that were produced in **Step 5** above will be used in the next activity, so don't lose them!

**FUN IDEA!**

Make a pattern by creating a design and then repeating it in the box to the right. What is being repeated in the below pattern?

