

Student example using the creative process

Challenging and inspiring

KC is faced with the challenge of making a symmetrical design using the elements of line, shape, and positive/negative space. KC is using their initials to create a black-and-white abstract design.

Imagining and generating

In order to generate ideas for a design based on her initials, KC creates thumbnail sketches in pencil—small, rough sketches that explore ideas and compositions.



Planning and focusing

KC decides they like the third thumbnail best. This is the one KC will use in the next step.



Exploring and experimenting

KC creates variations on the design selected. KC turns the letters in different ways. KC tries some areas black, and some white, working with positive and negative space in different ways.

Finally, KC draws borders around each design. The design needs to be tightly cropped, with the letters touching the edges. (This will be important because when the design is symmetrically flipped to create a mirror image, it needs to connect in the middle.) KC decides they like the third thumbnail best. This is the one KC will use in the next step.



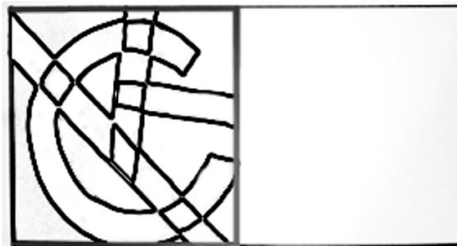
Producing preliminary work

On her page, KC uses pencil to draw a rectangle measuring 20cm × 10cm. KC divides it in half so there are two squares, each measuring 10cm × 10cm. This dividing line will be the axis in the symmetrical balance.

To create a mirror image, KC folds the paper along the middle line and traces their design onto the other half. (An easy way to do this is to put the folded paper on a window in daylight. You can examine the original design through the paper, so it's easy to trace the outline.)

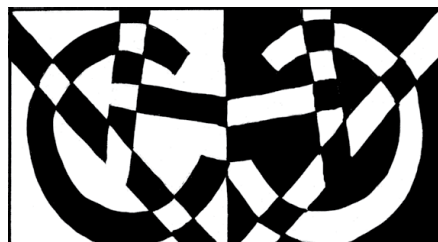
Revising and refining

Working with one half, KC uses a fine-tip black marker to complete the design, filling in some areas. Next KC reverses positive and negative space: in the mirror image, black areas become white, and white, black. The letters “KC” are still recognizable, but the emphasis is now on the design.



Presenting and performing

Here's the finished product!



Reflecting and evaluating

KC produced a successful design by

- keeping it simple
- having shapes touch the edges
- using positive and negative space well