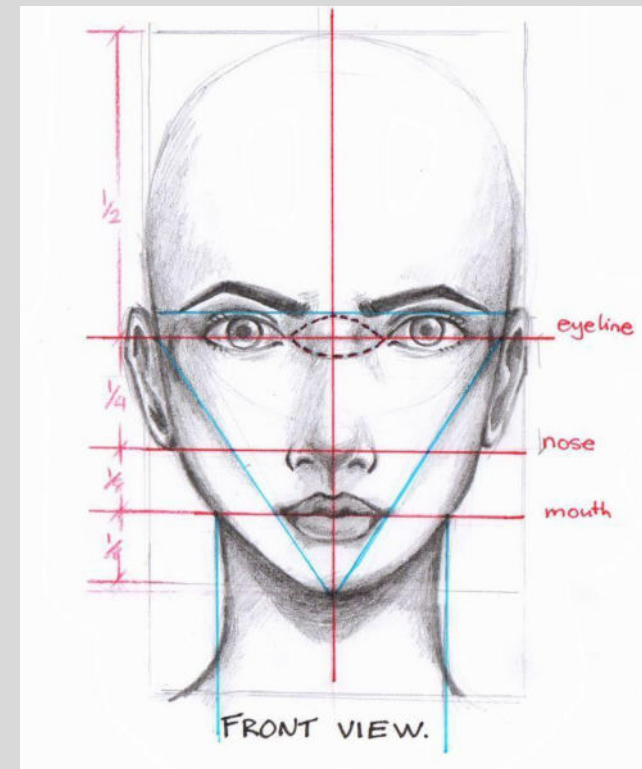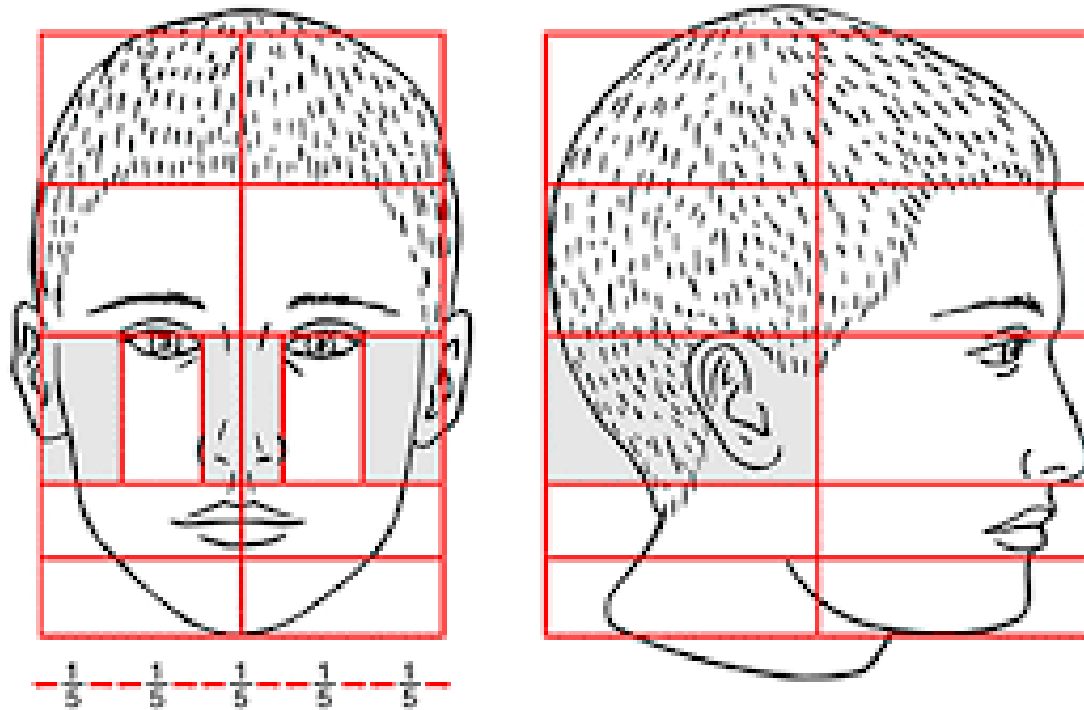Proportions are helpful but NOT the end all,
use them as a starting point but then rely more
on what you actually see.

FRONT VIEW.

Some people see the bottom middle line as the
bottom of the mouth, others as the middle, try
either.

So much forehead!! Your brain ignores the forehead, it has no information that's interesting, your brain has been trained to ignore the forehead. When you draw, you will make the forehead way too small naturally.

You can see how much the camera flattens/distorts the face but looking at how the eyes don't fit. If you draw from a photo instead of a mirror your picture may look more off because you're starting from flawed beginning.

My biggest advise is please please look at what you're drawing. If you spend all your time looking at the sheet of paper you're drawing on you're not getting enough information, it's like looking at the wheel when you're driving, it's tempting but look at the road! (your face or whatever you're drawing)

Look at what happens when you don't give enough forehead!

Fig. 9-8a. The features only.

Fig. 9-8b. The cut-off skull error, using the same features.

Fig. 9-8c. The same features again, this time with the full skull.
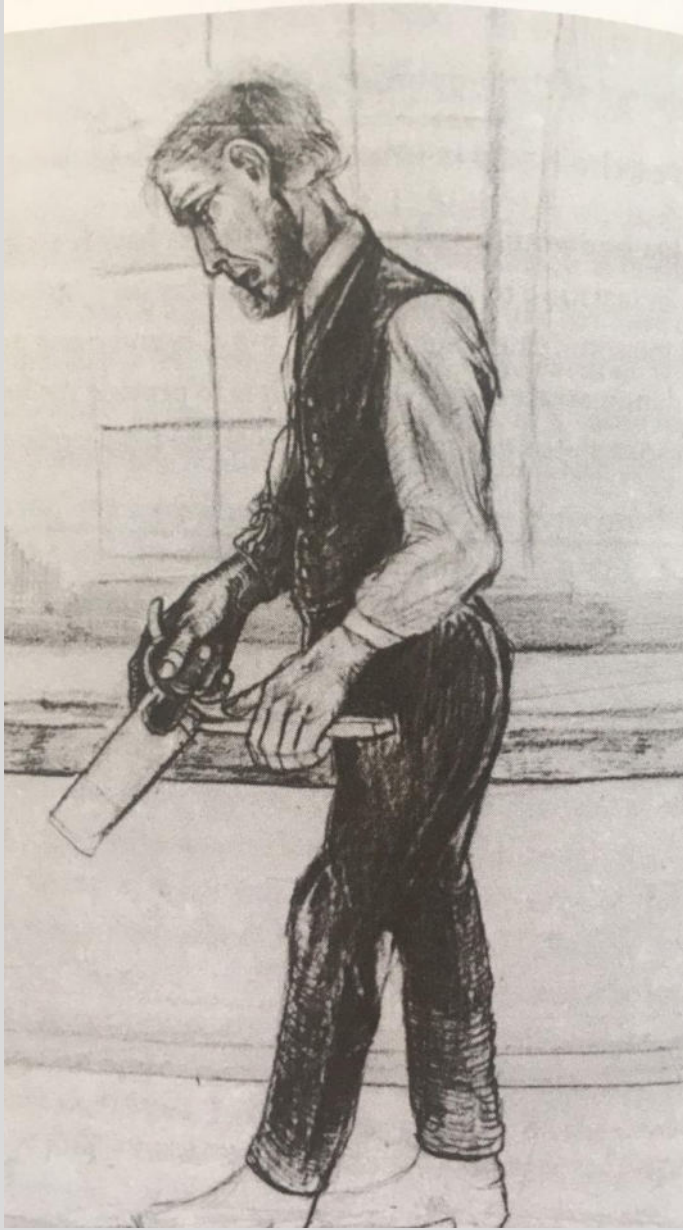
Fig. 9-9a. The features only.

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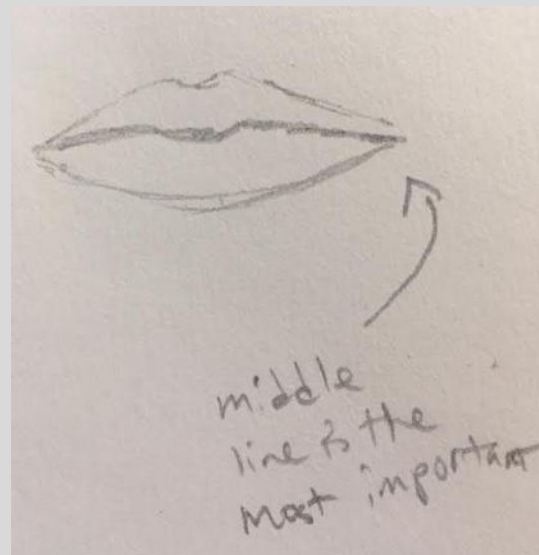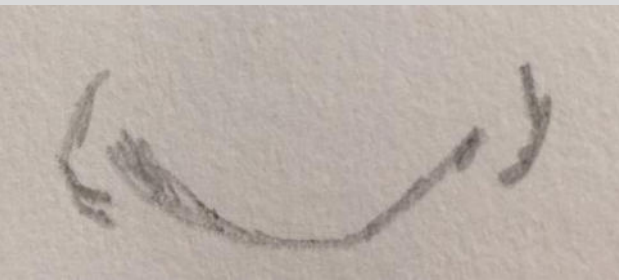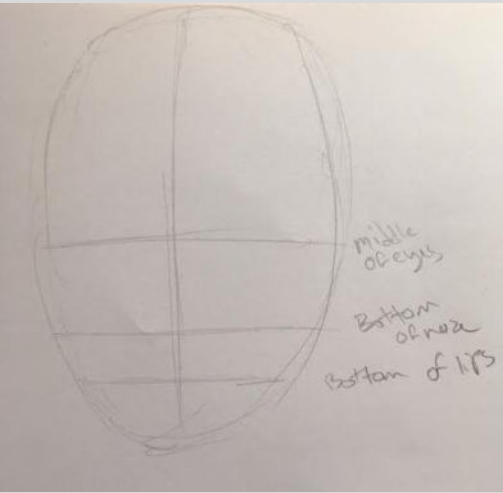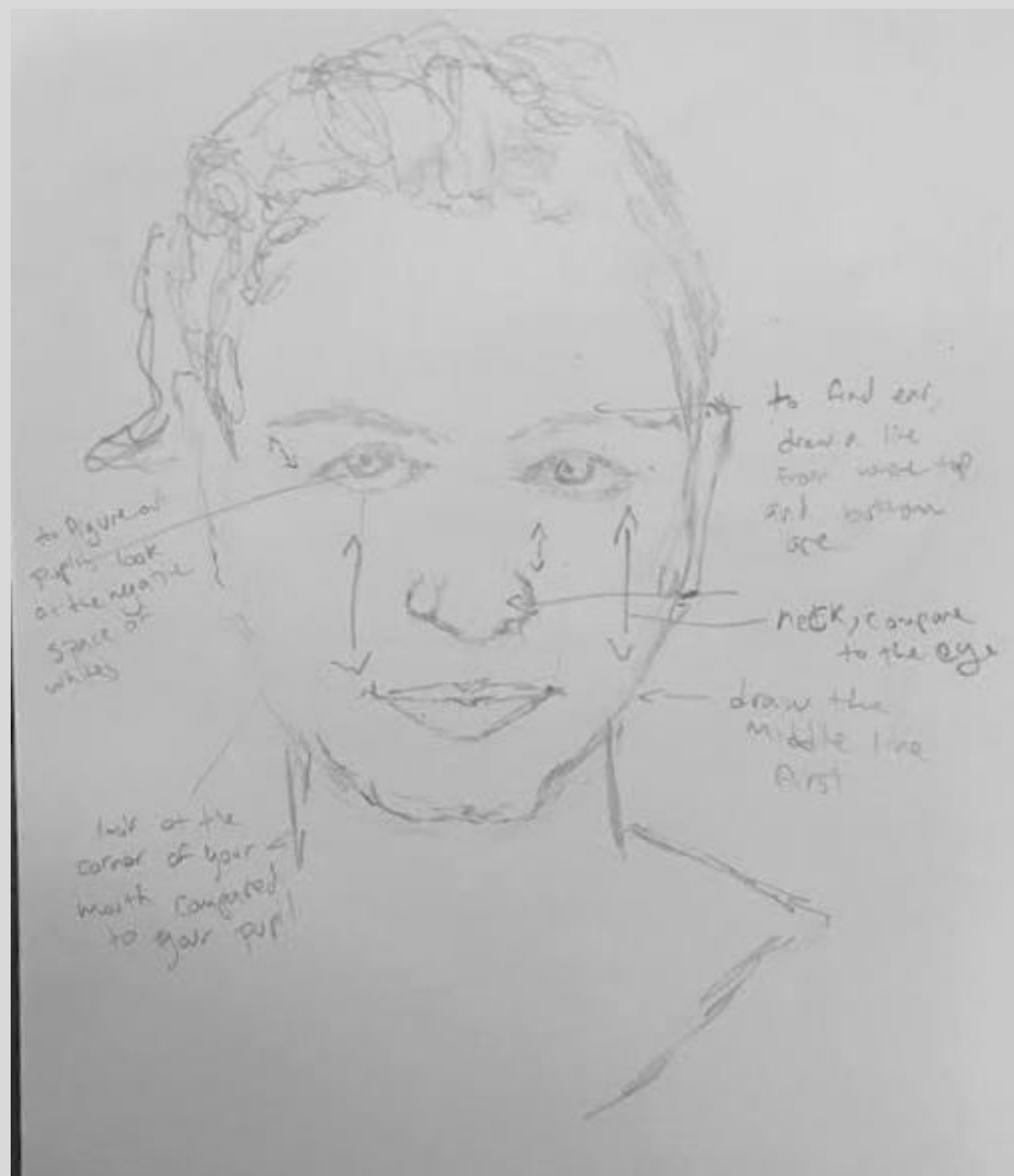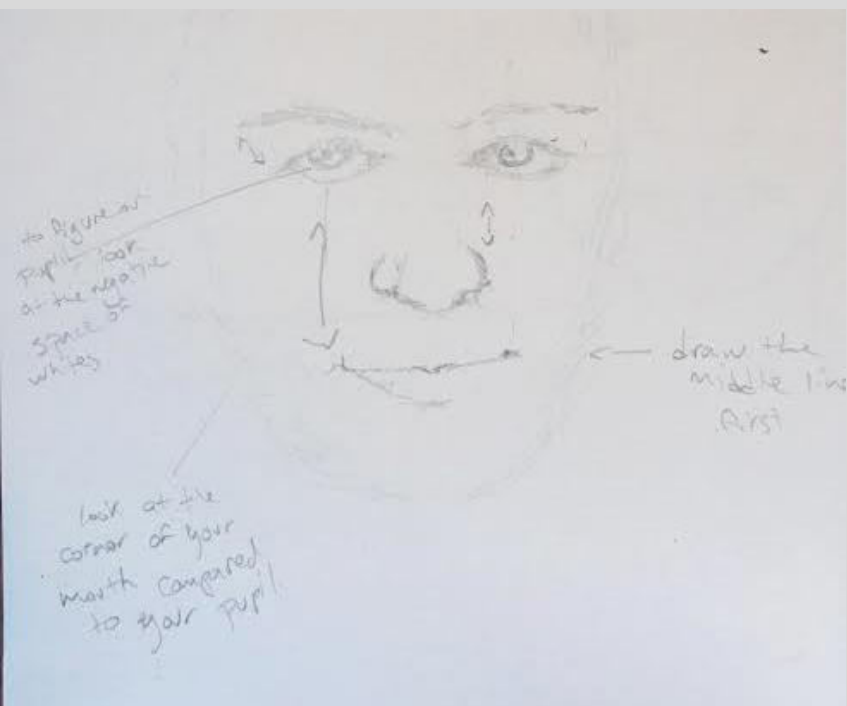
Vincent van Gogh learning to draw, these drawings are two years apart, look at how much more skull the man on the right has.

Generic face

middle of eyes

Bottom of nose

Bottom of lips

middle line is the most important

Left drawing:

to figure out
pupils look
at the negative
space of
whites

draw the
middle line
first

look at the
corner of your
mouth compared
to your pupil

Right drawing:

to find ext.
draw a line
from where top
and bottom
are

to figure out
pupils look
at the negative
space of
whites

neck, compare
to the eye

draw the
middle line
first

look at the
corner of your
mouth compared
to your pupil

To figure out the pupil, look at the negative space of the white in the eye ball.

To find your ear, compare with your pencil, hold the side of your pencil to the top of your ear, let it move to ear else on your face you see that spot.

To place where your mouth should end, compare it to where your eye is. The more comparisons you make between features and shapes the more accurate your drawing will be.

Draw the middle line of your mouth first, the top and bottom will fall into place after.

Find where your neck is by doing a comparison, I found mine to be almost at the end of my eye.