Straight Line Block-In

1

Mark Top and Bottom

OR Left and Right, whichever is longer.

Commit to those marks.

Mantra:
"I will erase and change whatever is necessary, including drastic surgery, to keep my drawing proportional and well placed on the page."

Artist: Pierre-Paul Prud'hon

2

Envelope

Sketch a large simple diamond around the figure.

Draw the longest, straightest lines possible, to build a container for the figure.

Stop. Look. Breathe.

Does the model look like they will fit in your box?

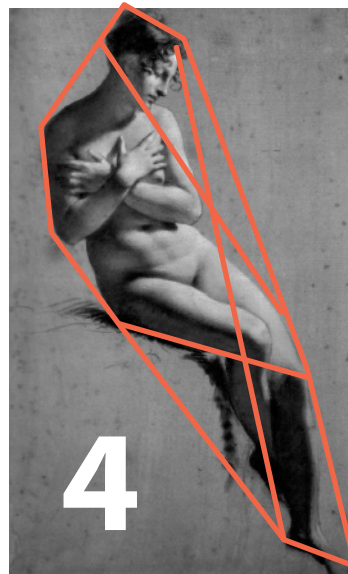Are the size, shape, and tilt correct?

3

Midpoint

Use a skewer or knitting needle to measure to find the midpoint.

Make a mental note of where the midpoint falls on the model.

Commit to keeping the midpoint.

Stop. Look at the model. Look at the page. Breathe, and imagine the figure placed on your page.

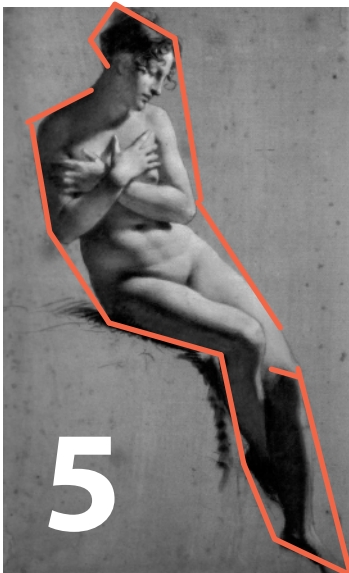Don't move forward until you can visualize the model on the page.

4

Web

Look for the longest, straightest line that will segment the Envelope.

Look from head to foot, from distant points, to create a "web" for the figure.

5

Segment

Segment the lines further.

Look for the longest, straightest relationships across the form.

Recheck the midpoint.

Stop. Look. Breathe.

6

Refine

Continue to segment lines.

Continue to look for head-to-toe relationships.

Tips

Any time you feel lost, confused, or unsure, put down your pencil and just Stop, Look, and Breathe.

Move your eyes quickly back and forth from drawing to subject.

The answers are in your subject, not on your paper.