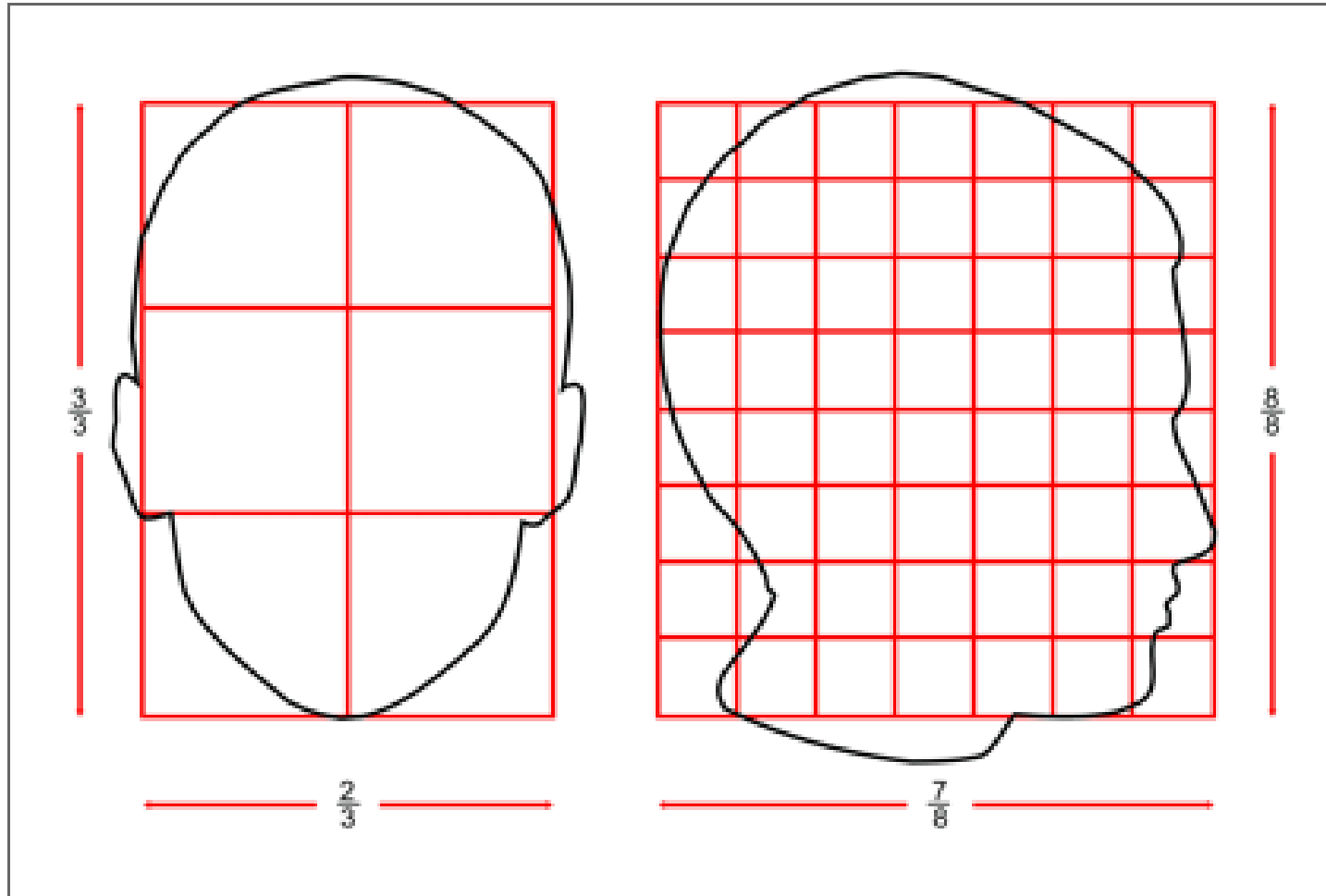


THE PROPORTIONS OF THE HEAD AND FACE



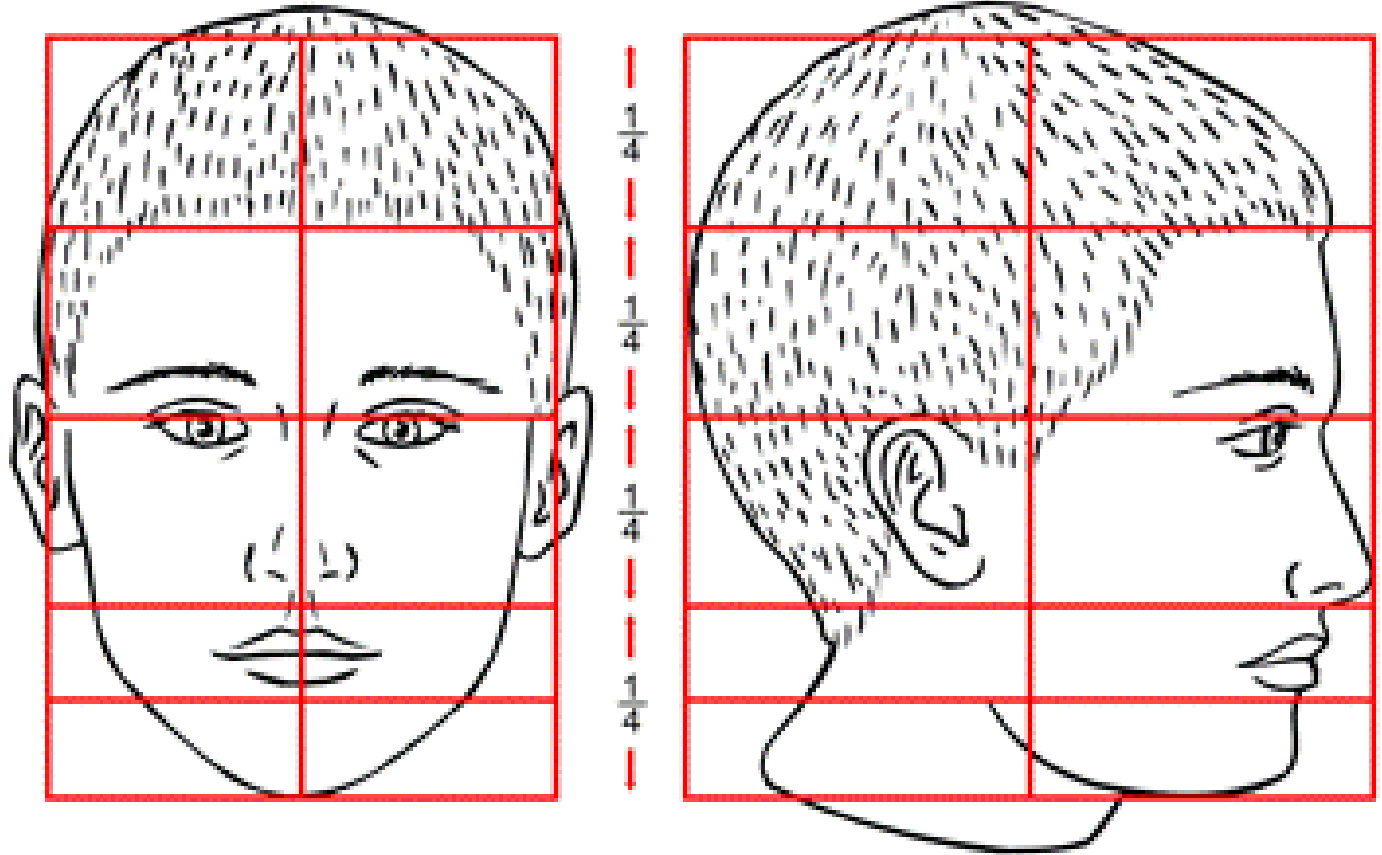
Take a moment to really look at these diagrams.

Look at the fractions and proportions.

After this lesson you want to be able to see a face with these proportions and apply it to your portraiture work.

Although the proportions of a head will vary from person to person and change slightly with age, there are some basic principles you can follow to improve your drawing. You can use these to check the general size, shape and position of features in your drawings.

- If you view a head from the front, its width is approximately two thirds of its height.
- If you view a head from the side, its width is approximately seven eighths of its height.

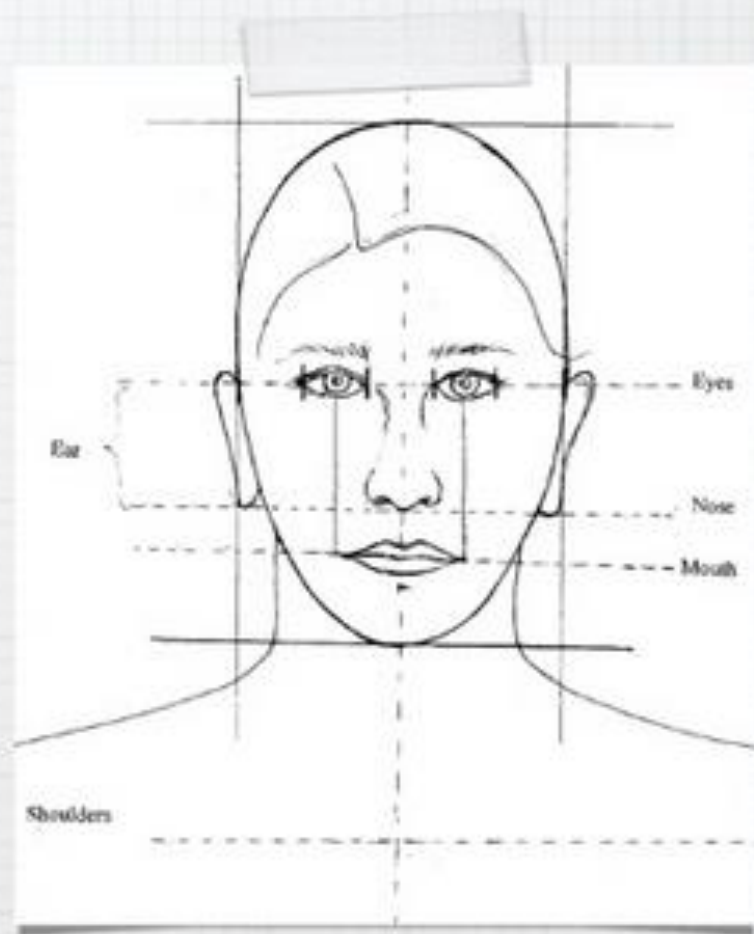


Facial Proportions

How to Draw an Average Adult Human Head

General Rules

- * The eyes are halfway between the top of the head and the chin.
- * The bottom of the nose is halfway between the eyes and the chin.
- * The mouth is halfway between the nose and the chin.
- * The corners of the mouth line up with the centers of the eyes.
- * The top of the ears line up with the center of the eyes.
- * The bottom of the ears line up with the bottom of the nose.



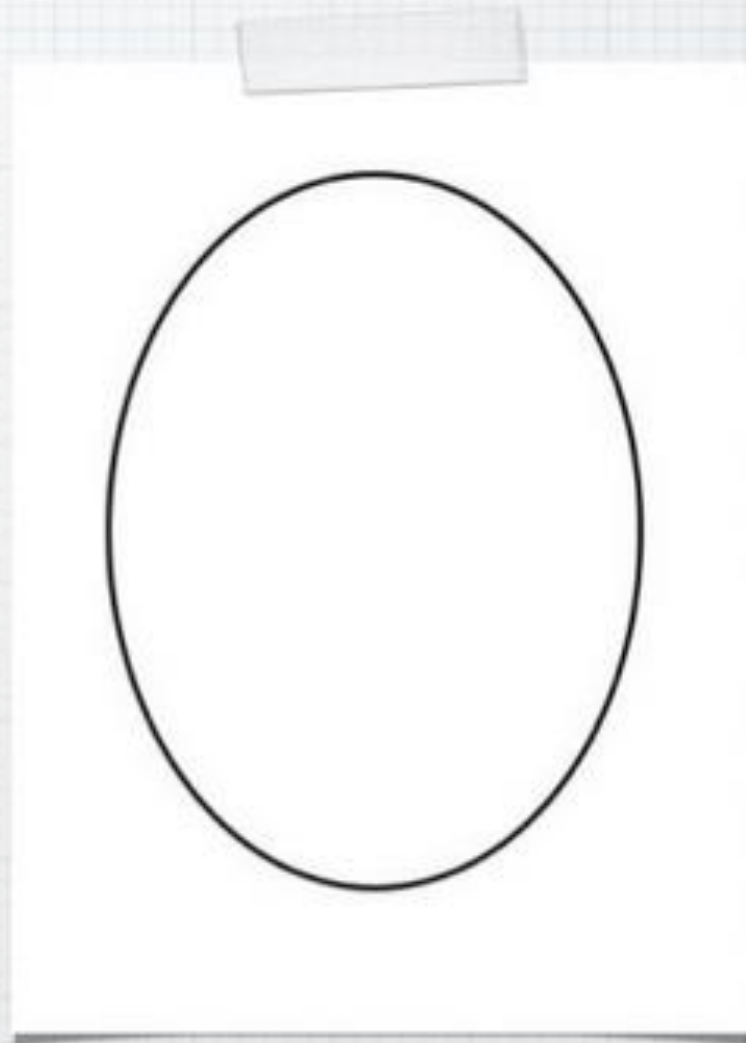
Step 1

Using a pencil, start by drawing an oval on your sheet of paper.

The oval should be the size you want the final face to be, or a bit smaller.

Leave room at the top of the sheet for hair and at the bottom of the sheet for a neck and shoulders.

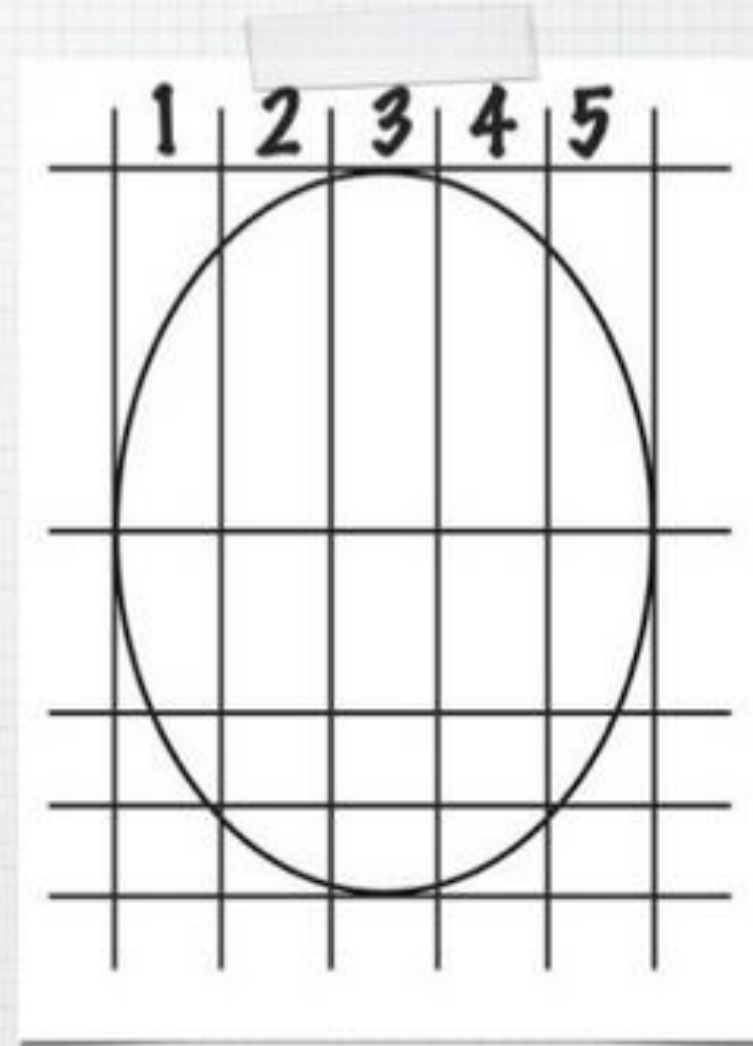
The bottom of the oval should reflect the jaw line of your subject (i.e. is it square, rounded, pointy?).



Step 2

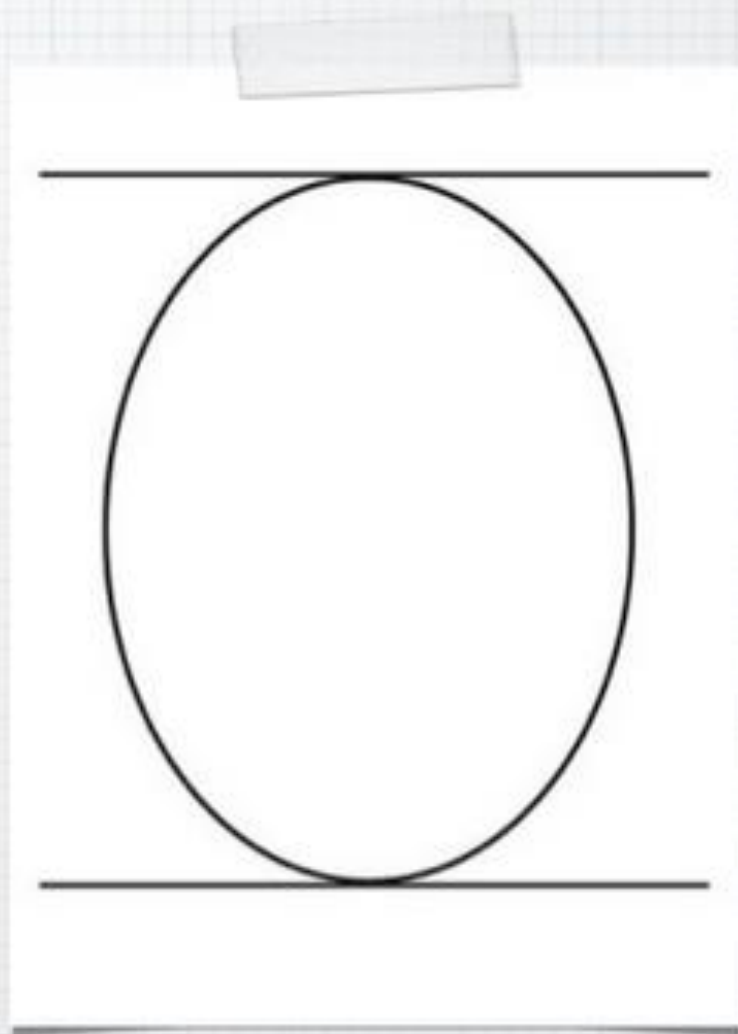
The next step is to make a very light pencil grid to help you locate facial features (you'll erase the grid when you're finished drawing).

Read on to do this in stages...



Step 2a

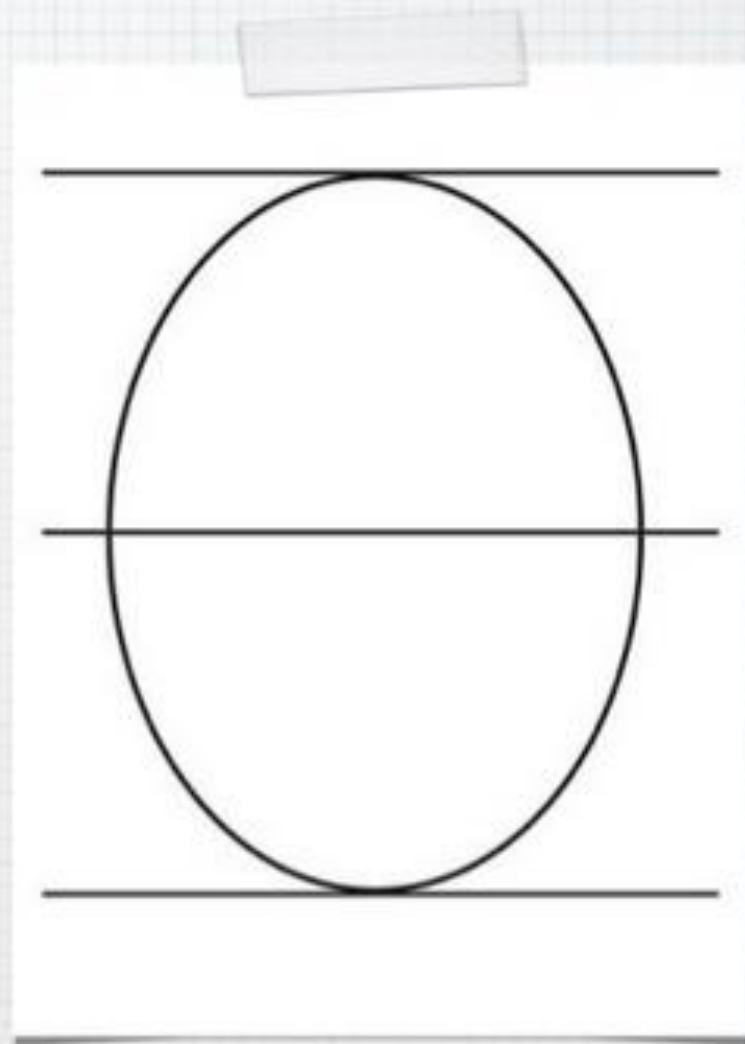
To start the grid, draw a light horizontal line at the top of the oval and another at the bottom of the oval.



Step 2a

To start the grid, draw a light horizontal line at the top of the oval and another at the bottom of the oval.

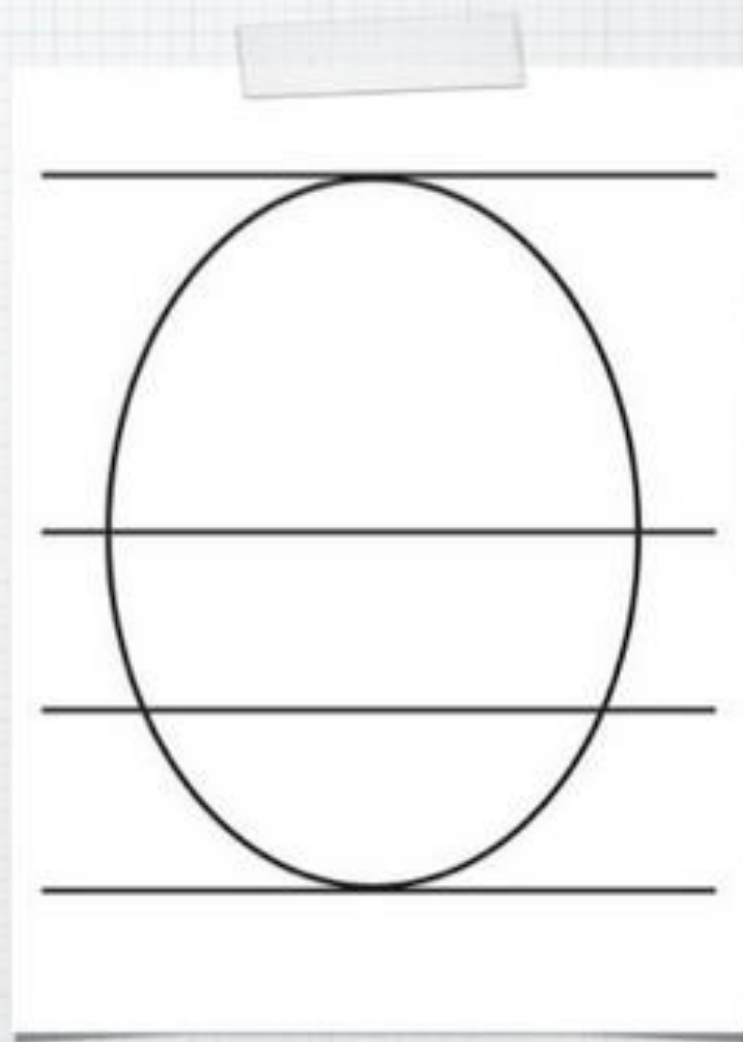
Then draw a horizontal line midway between the first two lines to divide the oval in half. This is the line on which you draw the eyes, which are roughly the shape of a football.



Step 2b

Draw a horizontal line midway between the eye line and the bottom line.

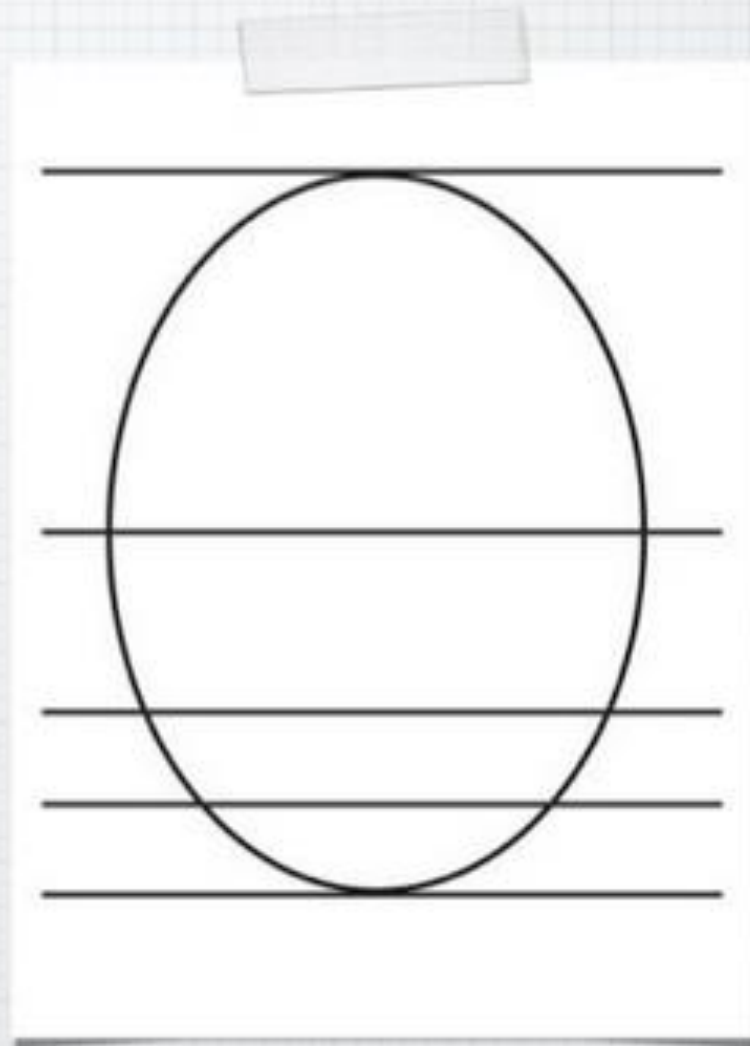
The bottom of the nose falls just above this line.



Step 2c

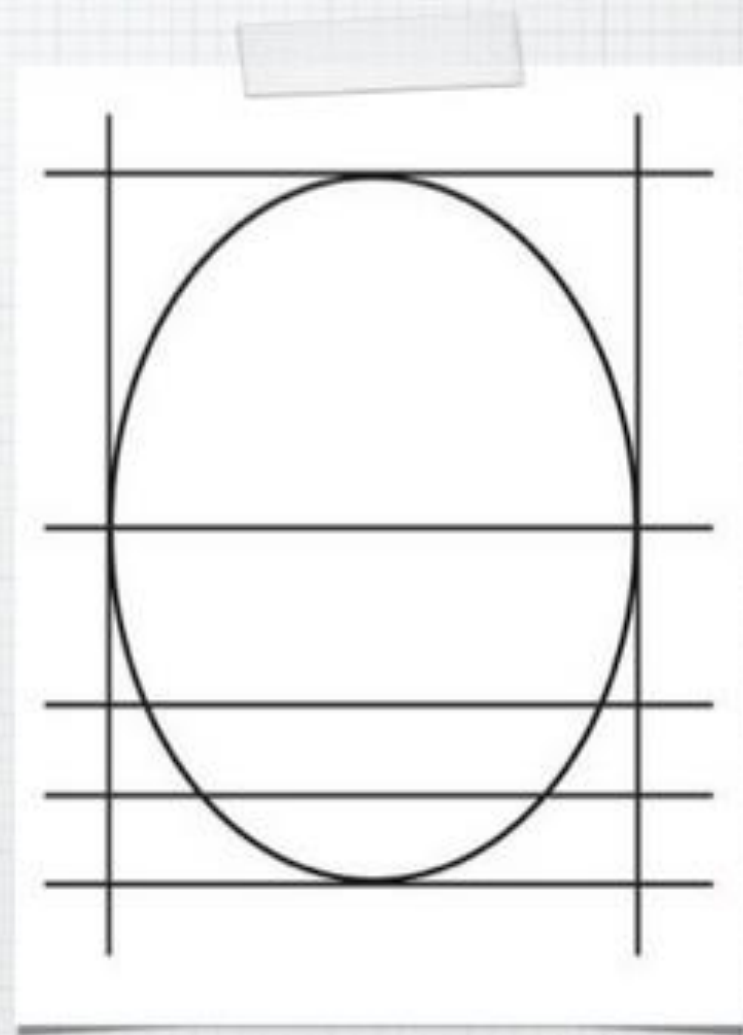
Draw a horizontal line midway between the nose line and the bottom line.

This is the line on which you center the mouth (which is the general shape of an elongated, pointy football, with two bumps on the top and one on the bottom, and a subtle line across the middle).



Step 2d

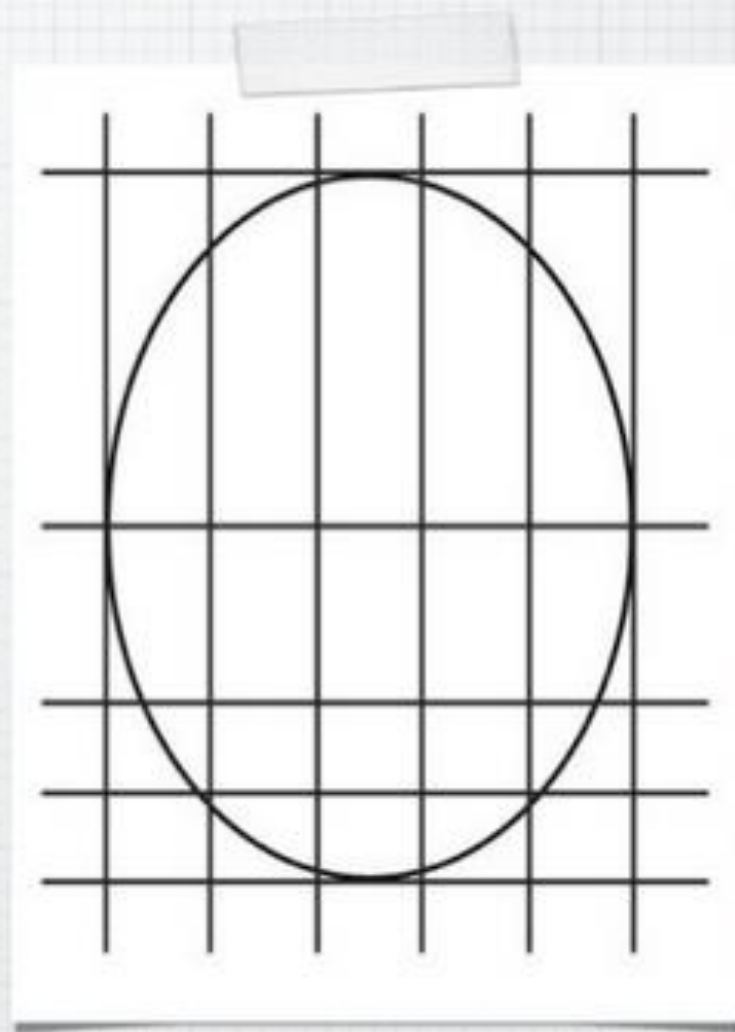
Next, draw some light vertical lines on each side of the oval.



Step 2d

Next, draw some light vertical lines on each side of the oval.

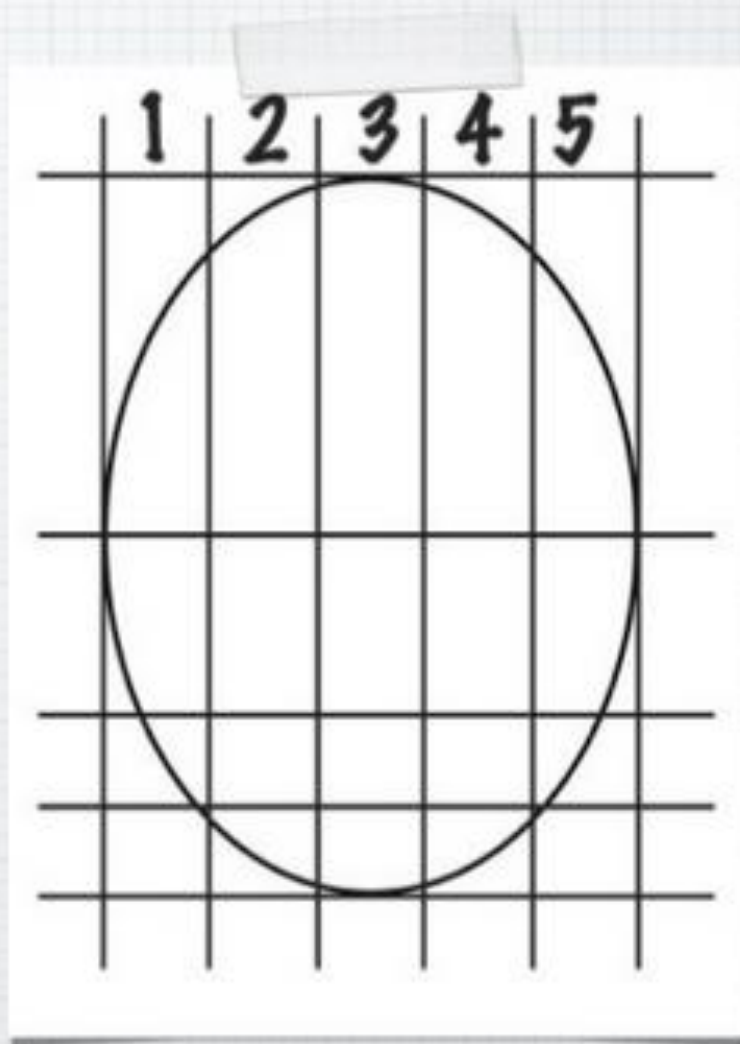
Draw four, equally-spaced vertical lines between those two lines to divide the space into five equal parts.



Step 2d

Next, draw some light vertical lines on each side of the oval.

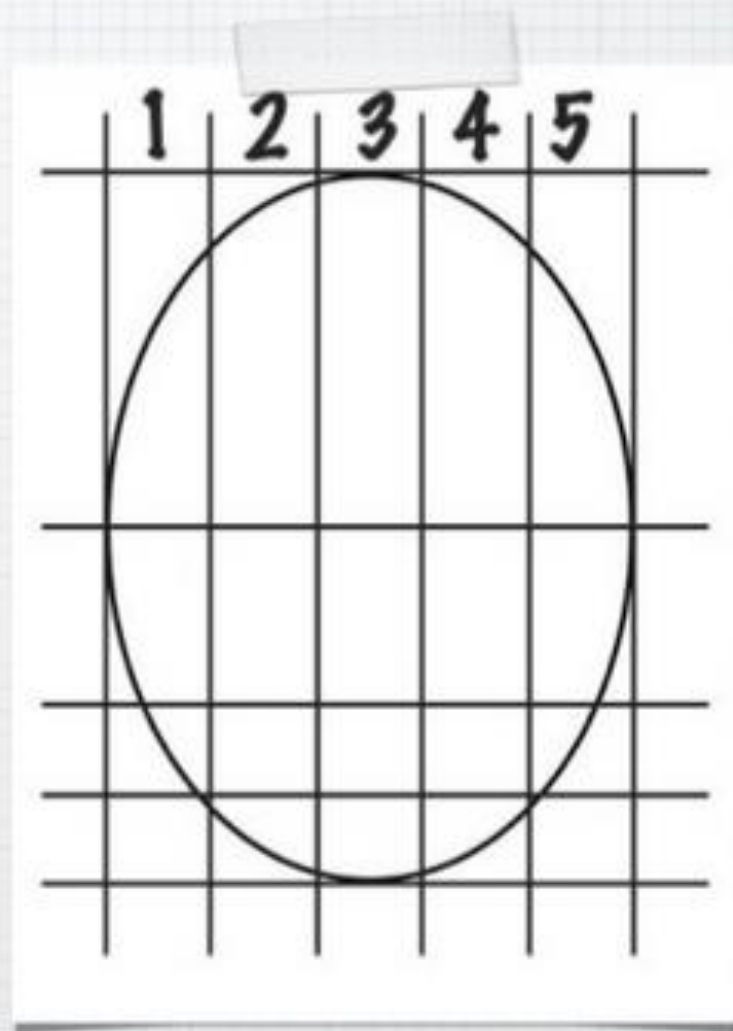
Draw four, equally-spaced vertical lines between those two lines to divide the space into five equal parts.



Step 2d

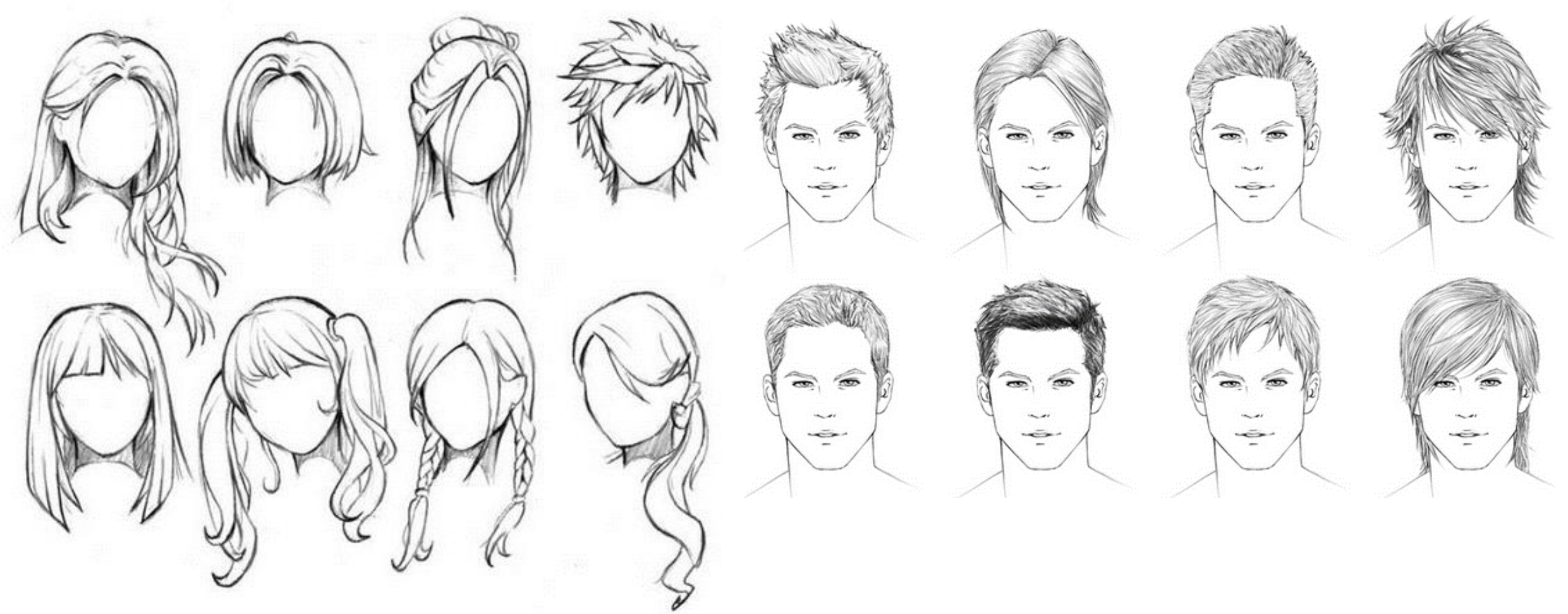
Next, draw some light vertical lines on each side of the oval.

Draw four, equally-spaced vertical lines between those two lines to divide the space into five equal parts.



Step 3

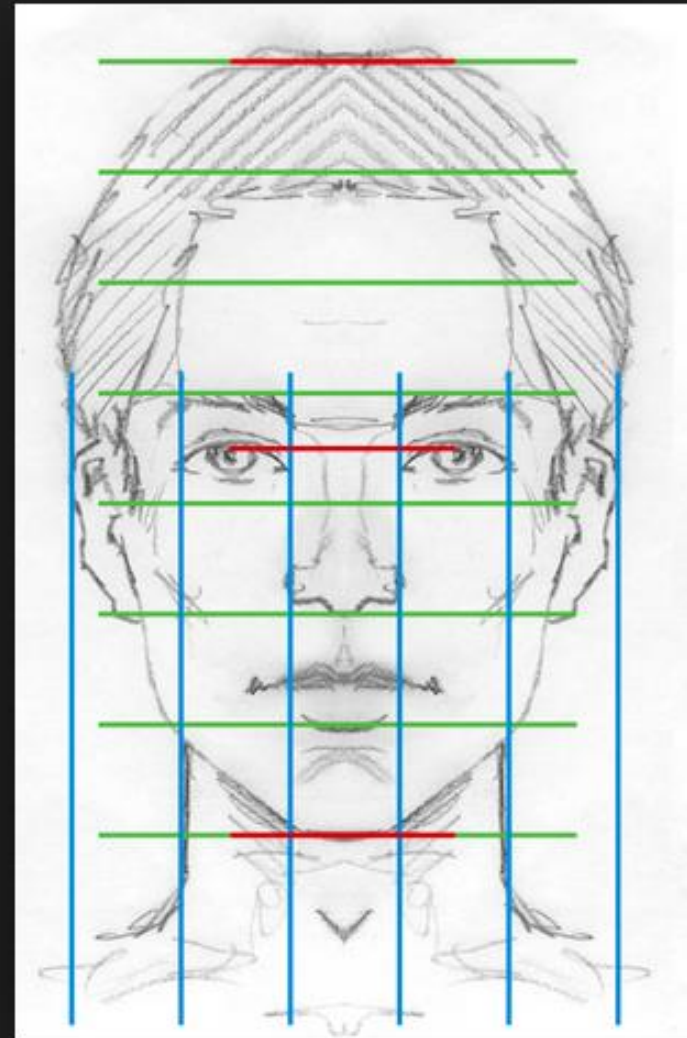
- * Sketch in the features.
- * The eyes fall in columns 2 and 4.
- * The distance between the eyes is the same size as an eye. You should be able to fit 5 eyes across the head so use your pencil as a measuring guide.
- * The distance between the eyes is similar to the width of the bottom of the nose.
- * The nose falls in column 3.
- * The corners of the mouth line up with the centers of the eyes.
- * Draw in the ears by aligning the tops with the center of the eyes and the bottoms with the bottom of the nose.

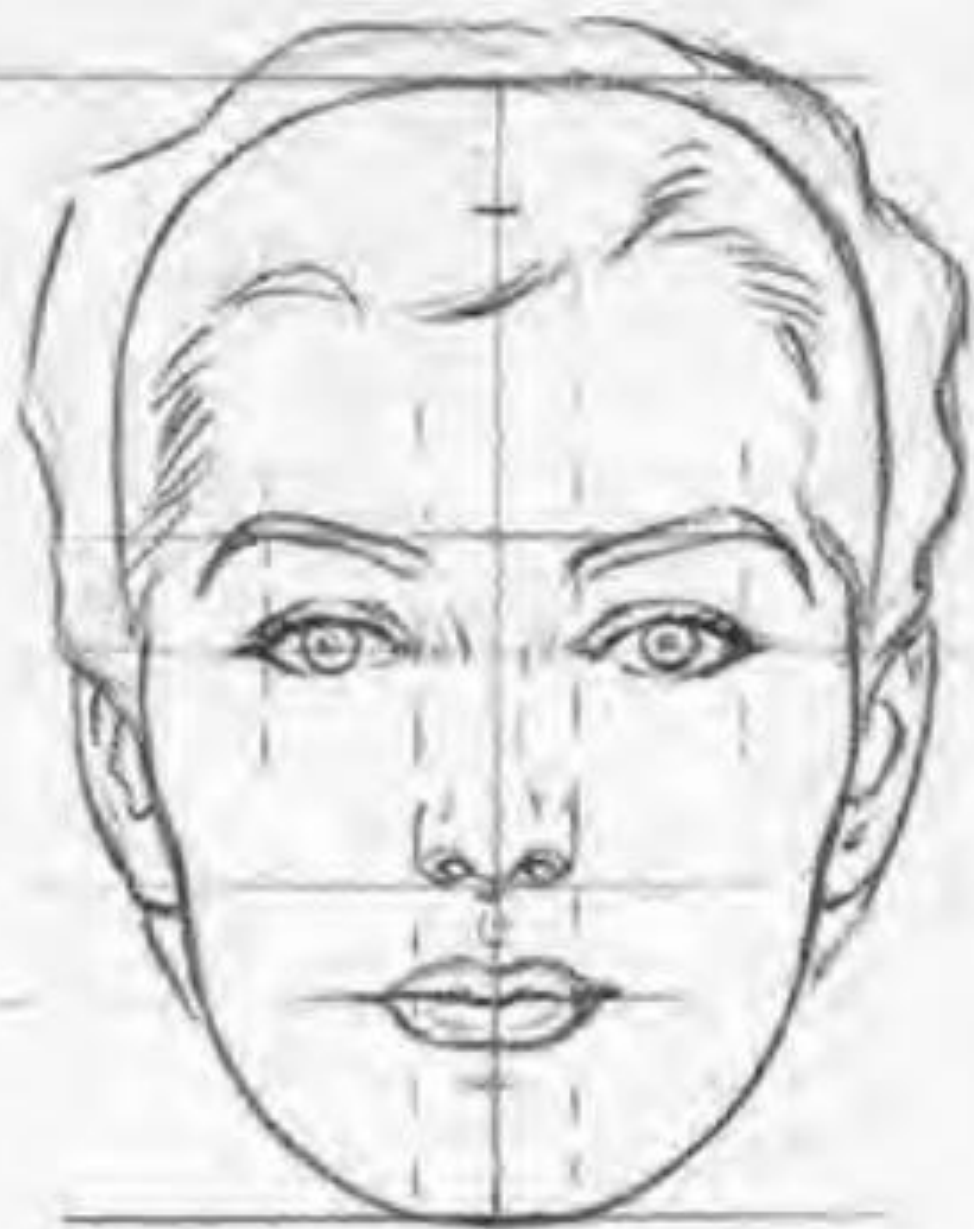
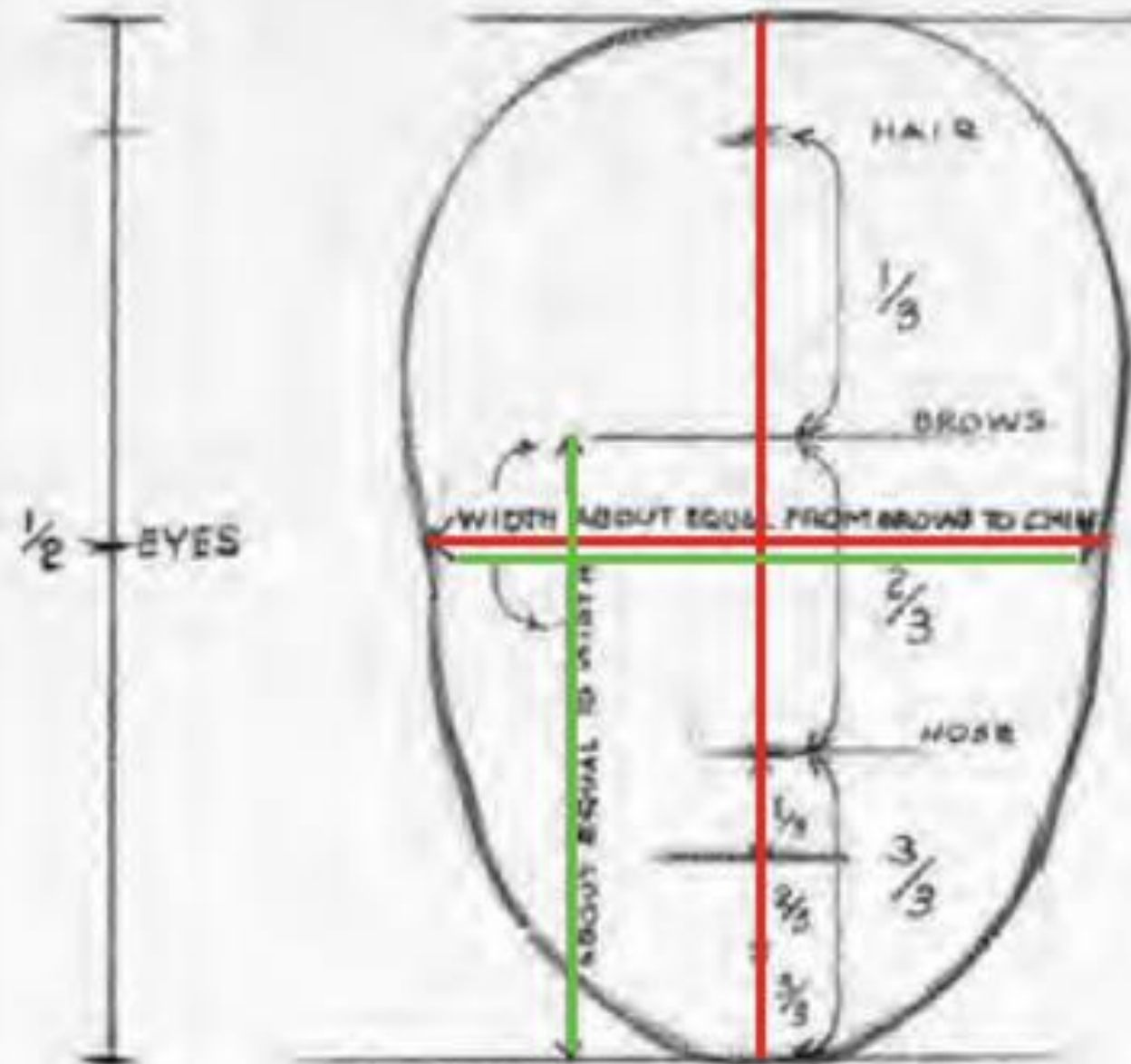


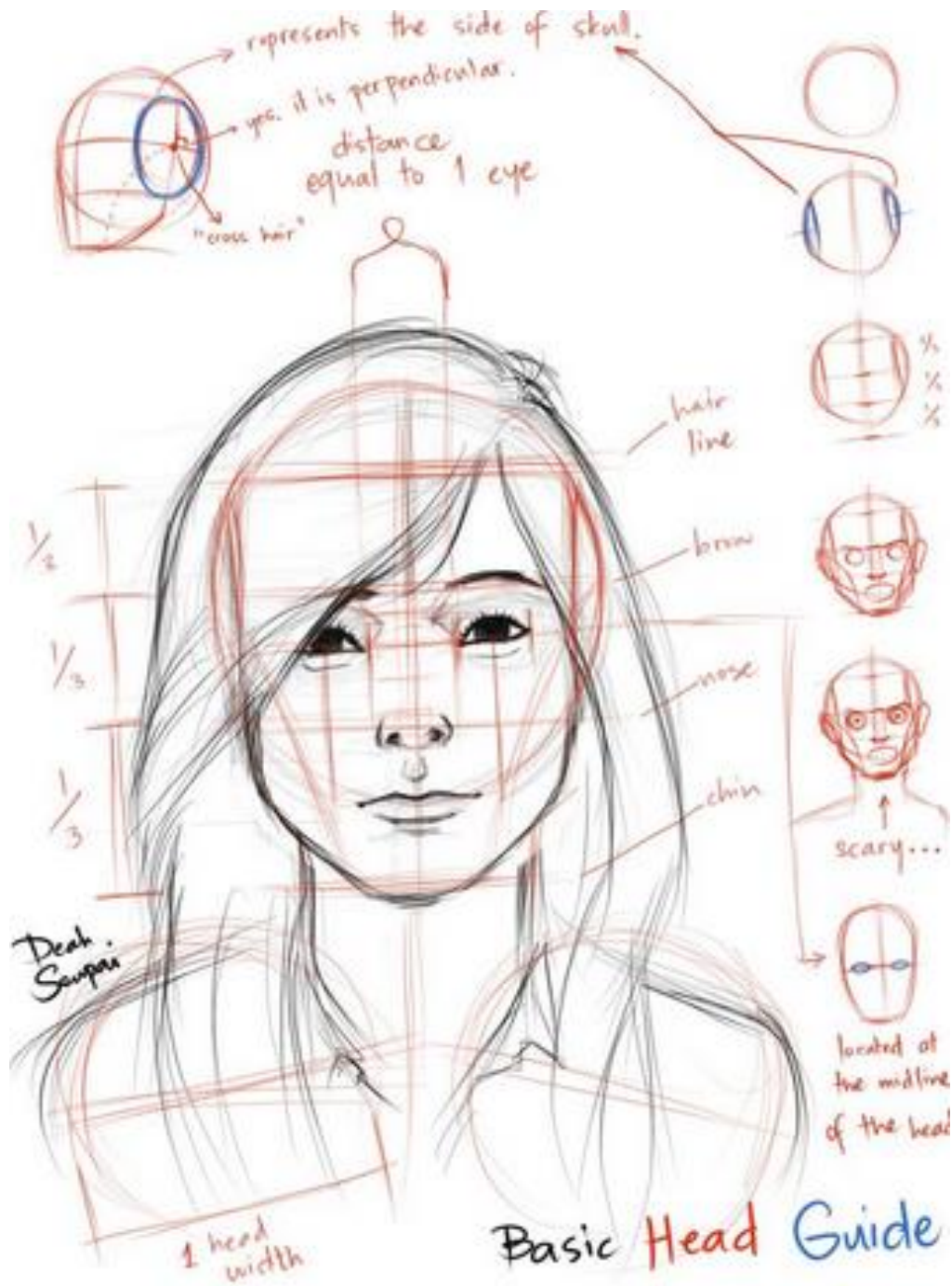
Just to practice, you can look at illustrative hairstyles to see where the hairlines appear in your portrait. Students tend to add hair much higher on their portraits...follow the general rules and your proportions will improve.

General Rules

- * The eyes are halfway between the top of the head and the chin.
- * The bottom of the nose is halfway between the eyes and the chin.
- * The mouth is halfway between the nose and the chin.
- * The corners of the mouth line up with the centers of the eyes.
- * The top of the ears line up with the center of the eyes.
- * The bottom of the ears line up with the bottom of the nose.







Present your Sketch like this so that you can refer to it in the future. Leave all of the measuring lines there to see how the rules have been applied

No shading is needed for this task. It is purely to practice the 'rules' and be prepared for your portraiture work in the future 😊