

Chuck Close Portraits

This project takes a bit of prep work and digital photography, but you'll love the memory making results so much that it all seems worth it.

1. Begin by shooting large head shots of students against a white wall. Print them in black and white on 8.5 x 11 sized paper. Try <http://www.dumppr.net>
2. Find or printing 3/4" or 1" grid paper on 9" x 12" drawing paper is also helpful.
3. Each student takes their face print, puts it on top of a sheet of carbon paper, centers that on the grid paper and lightly tapes all together. To make a simple drawing, the students trace just the edges of their hair, shoulders and then the inside of their face. No details are needed inside the hair and clothes. When the drawing is complete, the top papers are removed to reveal the drawing on the grid paper. The carbon lines are then traced with a black colored pencil.
4. To color, the students should think of their portraits as four sections: the face, the hair, the clothes and the background. Starting with the face, they need to choose two colored pencils to work with. The sample shows red colored in first, stopping at the edges of the face. When complete, the other squares are colored (my sample shows pink). I think the eyes look best colored with their natural color.
5. As an alternative, for each section (background, hair, skin, and clothes) they can use a different 2-color combo. See pictures on following page.



