how to develop a sketch

Draw in order: Line, Shape, Detail, Shade/Shadow.

- **Line:** Block out simple lines. Find your eye level line and vanishing point, if possible.
- **Shape:** Add shapes, like parts of buildings, tree forms, walks, etc.
- **Detail:** Add texture like siding materials, window and door details, leaves.
- **Tone** (shade and shadow): Shadows can make the sketch really pop and gives dimension to the shapes.

Tips to keep in mind when sketching:

- When holding your pen/pencil, loosen up your grip.
- Hold the pencil perpendicular to the line you are making. Pull the pencil – don’t push it.
- Work with your shoulder to make longer lines. Work with your wrist or finger movements when making fine detail lines.
- Draw what you see with your eyes – not what you think you see.
- Practice the skill of seeing well (look for the negative spaces, the shapes between objects, as well as the objects themselves).
- Start a sketch small, like a thumbnail sketch, to study the overall values and composition. A small sketch also takes less time to complete (in case you run out of time).
- Identify what you want to draw. What is interesting about what you are seeing? What are you trying to say with your drawing?
- Don’t judge your sketch to harshly while drawing – sketches always look better later on.
- Sketching is a SKILL – not a GIFT. Practice will make you better!