

Cursive Italic Letter Writing – Exploring Beginning Calligraphy I with Mary Hill

Grades 6 -12

Students will discover the basics of cursive handwriting (the foundation of calligraphy) by exploring basic lettering tools to conceive and compose a work of calligraphic verse of their choosing.

Materials: 9" x 12" self healing cutting mat, graph paper (letter size or smaller), bleed proof smooth surface paper (letter size or smaller), soft lead art pencil (NB or softer), kneaded eraser, Pilot Parallel ink pen (nib sizes 2.4mm or 3.8 mm), see thru ruler, lettering pens such as black Pigma Micron Pens (fine and medium point), watercolor paints (any kind)

Written verses of your choosing, such as quotations from books, poems, or songs. This will be used in composing your finished piece.

The Lesson:

PUSHING THE PENCIL - First 10 minutes of Video Instruction

Step 1. Introduction to Instructor and Project

Step 2. Overview of the Tools, and organizing your Workspace

Step 3. Practice Pencil Strokes discovering the Basic Structure of Cursive Letters

Step 4. Making Cursive Capitals

Step 5. Making Lower Case Cursive Letters

Step 6. Combining Cursive Capitals with Lower Case Cursives

RULE, RENDER and REFINE - Second 10 minutes of Video Instruction

Step 7. Compose your words with a Pencil on Ruled Lines

Step 8. With a Pencil, Render The Words by checking your Spaces, and Strokes

Step 9. With your Ink Pen, Render the Letter Shapes

Step 10. Refine and Finish your Piece By erasing the Pencil Marks, and adding Watercolor for emphasis

Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic work and ideas.
- Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
- Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

VA:Cr1.7.2 Students will identify cursive letter forms and compose them into an effective visual message. Students will examine works of literature and poetry to interpret and express their letter designs.

VA:Pr4.7.1 Students will explore the evolution of letter forms and discover and compare how lettering supports verbal message and communication in various cultures.

VA:Cr2.HS.1II Students will practice the design of letter forms exploring various hand tools and techniques such as drawing and inking on various paper surfaces, and experimenting with how hand-made letter forms build visual story-telling skills.

Connection to Literacy: Thoughtful letter design engages the mind with the written word, moves the heart with inspiration, and allows the hand to learn how to make unique visual expressions.

Resources: <https://sublimereflection.com/free-hand-lettering-resources/>

About the Artist

Mary Hill

Mary Hill is a Graphic Designer and Calligrapher who also explores fine art bookmaking. She teaches part-time at UNLV, and holds professional workshops throughout the Southwest region, and with the community based non-profit group The Las Vegas Scribes .

Find more of her work at www.mhill-design.com

Contact: You are welcome to contact her at maryhill85@cox.net

artists in schools +
communities

Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster

The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>