

# GCA Portrait Drawing Supply List

Instructor: Angela Cunningham

Welcome to Portrait Block-in class, this class is limited to drawing. We will be using graphite for all assignments for this class. Below please find my strong suggestions for drawing materials.

There are a few “**absolutely not**” rules for this class.

No bristol, vellum or other cardstock weight paper. No newsprint. No toned paper. We are aiming for a high quality, high cotton content drawing paper.

No charcoal. Charcoal, while darker than graphite, is more difficult to deposit deliberately on the paper.

The blue underlined words are linked to the exact product at Blick, Lowes or Amazon but feel free to purchase anywhere.

**Paper:** A pad of [Strathmore 400 drawing series paper](#). Size 11”x14” or 18” x 24”

**Pencils:** Either traditional wood pencils or [2mm lead holders](#) with [lead refills](#) (multiple holders in different colors is useful). Various harnesses– at least two each: 4H, 2H, H and HB.

The following brands are ideal:

[Staedler](#) - staedler is my preferred brand

[Tombow](#)

[Faber-Castell](#)

[Derwent](#)

**Sharpener:** For wood pencils: An [exacto](#) or [retractable blade](#) (for removing the wood of the pencil) and [A sandpaper block](#)

For lead holders: a [Staedtler Mars Lead Pointer](#)

**Eraser:** [Kneaded Eraser](#) and a [Stylus erasers](#), or [tombow mono eraser](#)

**Measuring stick:** This can be a metal skewer, a knitting needle, or a bike spoke. I recommend whichever you choose that it be metal so it has less likelihood of bending. Can be purchased on amazon

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000UPNZHK/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_mt\\_dp\\_24PEAVBVVA6EKK7Q3MVR](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000UPNZHK/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_24PEAVBVVA6EKK7Q3MVR).

**Drawing Board:** [A hard surface to support your drawing pad](#).

**Tape:** [Painters Tape](#)

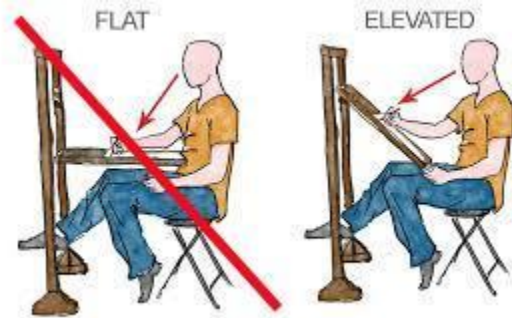
**Easel:**

I highly recommend getting a stand up easel or [table easel](#) so you can get used to drawing with your paper upright.

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My preferred travel upright easel is [Jullian Rexy Watercolor Easel](#). It's a decent price, great for drawings and small paintings and easy to travel with.

If you can not get an easel at this time you can work seated and lean a drawing board on a chair in front of you. What you want to avoid is drawing with your board flat!



**Lights:** You will need one clamp light. This can be a photography light, or [a clamp light](#) ( from a hardware store) basically any light that is directional (meaning it can be pointed at something, rather than lighting the whole room like an overhead light). Ideally artificial light should be a “daylight” LED bulb that is 5000K.

**[Black Tinfoil:](#)** Used on clamp lights to help direct light where wanted.

**[Small level:](#)** to check if the drawing board is straight.

**Drawing supply box:** some kind of box to organize drawing materials. This can be any kind of box that works for you. I've seen cigar boxes to medical bags to [store bought containers](#).

**[Mahl Stick:](#)** to keep your hand off drawing while working. Again you can get creative and use any kind of stick to help hold your hand off your drawing while working. Bamboo stick, cane, ect. If you don't have a stick you can also tape a piece of tracing paper over the section of drawing so that it protects your drawing from your hand rubbing over it.

**Clamps:** I use these to hold my paper to my board or sometimes hold my board to the easel. They just can be very useful for many things.

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08FHDQJ6W/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_mt\\_dp\\_764SB8W9XEZK2AWFD9BM](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08FHDQJ6W/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_764SB8W9XEZK2AWFD9BM)

During the first class I will be explaining the materials and showing my set-up and best practices for your first assignment (how to sharpen the pencil, how to make the proper mark etc...)