

Draw Your Home

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Educational Goals: Understand use of drawing scales, legends, and common drawing symbols; create simple drawings.

Description: This is a homework activity, where students draw a floor plan of their home or apartment. Their work gets reviewed in the next session. It can be used for multiple sessions by asking students to add refinements.

Time: 15 minutes reviewing per session.

Materials: Graph paper (8 1/2 x 11, with 1/4 inch grid), equipment for projecting images on a screen (either transparencies suitable for copy machines used with an overhead projector, or scanner/laptop/LCD projector)

Additional Resources: None

Activity: Individual Activity

This is a valuable exercise for many reasons. If assigned at the very first session, it gets the students "working" immediately, and sets a tone that ACE is activity-oriented rather than lecture-oriented. It also helps the mentors quickly learn "where the students are at" in terms of their graphical and visualization skills.

Give the students the following minimal instructions:

- Draw a floor plan of your home or apartment.
- Must be on 8 1/2 x 11 graph paper (handed out)
- If multi-level, just do one level

The instructions are intentionally open-ended, so that the students are forced to think about what is important to show, and how to best show it.

Collect the sketches at the start of the next session. While the session continues, an assistant prepares the drawings for display. At the end of session, display and review each sketch. Invite the creator to provide any explanation. Discuss the graphical features of each in a constructive manner. Expect a tremendous variety in the quality of the sketches.

By adding refinements, this can be used as a continuing activity to help develop graphical and visualization skills. Mentors can choose the number of iterations, depending on the ability of the students and time available.

Possible Refinements:

- Redraw to better scale (involves making rough measurements of space, and using scale or grid)
- Add a scale (graphical and numerical), title or title block, legend
- Show wall thickness
- Add windows and door swings
- Add furniture
- Add electrical outlets and lighting fixtures
- Add radiators, vents etc (HVAC)
- Add plumbing fixtures
- Add yard and landscaping (for detached homes)