



## Drawing Composite Flowers Asteraceae Family

The centers of composite flowers are the actual flowers (disc florets) and what we call petals are actually called ray florets. Many of these 'flowers' are based on a circular design.

When you tip a circle it becomes an ellipse or oval shape.

### Drawing:

- ❖ One way to start is by drawing two ellipses. The first ellipse is the center of the flower. The center ellipse is the outside ring of the petals. **Use a ruler or divider to get these measurements right.**
- ❖ Make sure that the centers line up with each other and the stem of the flower.
- ❖ Divide the flower into four parts, like a clock.
- ❖ Draw the innermost ray flowers first- the ones in front that you can see. Use the divisions to help place them.
- ❖ Remember that the ray petals coming out at you will be *fore-shortened*, that is they will appear shorter than they really are. Your ellipse should help you with that.
- ❖ *Draw what you see not what you know.*

### Color:

- ❖ The most important thing you need to do is find a way to separate the petals. We **do not outline** but we do need to put in a **darker shadow color** to differentiate the petals. Do a study of two or three petals and test your colors for shading- both in the petal and between the petals.
- ❖ You cannot just press harder on a pencil to make a dark. You usually need a darker pencil. Try working with **analogous colors- colors that are next to each other on the color wheel-** Pink- Purple, Orange - Red. Grayed Lavender or Lilac work well with Yellow Flowers
- ❖ You can put your dark color in first and then work in the petal color or work the petal color first and use the darker color to show overlaps. **The petal underneath will be the darker one.**
- ❖ The "real" flowers are in the center. Make sure you show that there are many florets not just one mass. You can do this with small hair like strokes if you can see the pistils or small circles. Use a magnifying glass and really look at the center. Experiment on a separate piece of paper.
- ❖ Have fun! Consider doing a study page and do not worry about a full portrait.

*Drawing is not what you see but what you must make others see.*...Edgar Degas

