

# Oil Pastel: Dog Caricatures

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## Materials

Oil pastels 12/set, Holbein or Rose brand (2 - 3 students can share)  
Cartridge or construction paper, 9"x12" - 2 sheets per student

## Goal

Caricatures are quick cartoons. Artists make many quick sketches like these and then use them for ideas and reference for more finished art works. The purpose of this project is to encourage students to create a rough, sketchy draft before creating a hard-edged, dark outline. Oil pastel is great for this technique because dark colours cover light colours easily. This is also an exercise using basic shapes to describe character. It is fun to see how small embellishments complete the picture's story.

## Procedure

1. Choose a light colour like yellow, pink or orange to sketch the big shapes. What shape is your dog's head, round, square, oval? Sketch a geometric shape for the head.
2. Is your dog facing left or right? Draw the snout and nose. How the nose is drawn will add perspective to the face.
3. Now add ears and a neck. Feel free to make sketchy correction lines to adjust proportions if needed.
4. Next, take a darker colour like brown, green or blue and draw an outline that defines the top of the head, the ears, snout, chin and neck of the dog.
5. Where is your dog looking? Up, down, or to the left or right? Add pupils to the eyes.
6. Time to add more colours. What kind of coat does your dog have? Is it smooth, hairy, wiry or fluffy?  
Draw your marks in the same direction the dog's hair actually grows.



If you like this project, why not try a portrait?