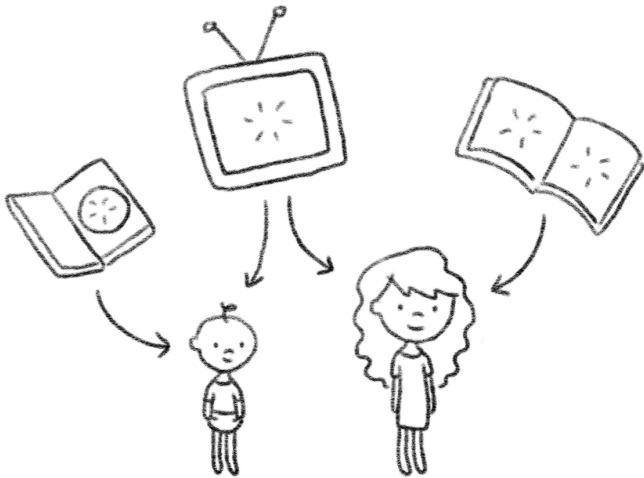




A Might Could Guide:

MAKING AN INFLUENCE MAP

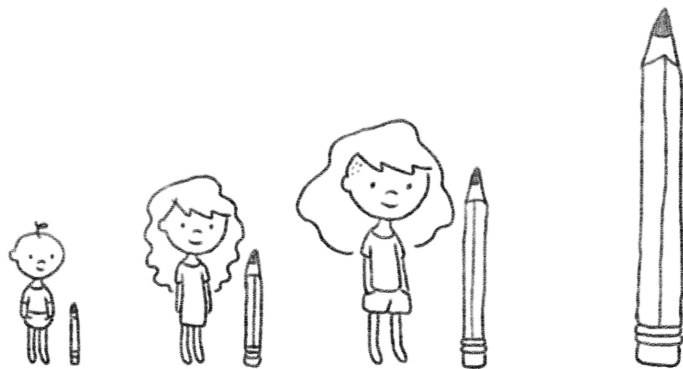


What is an Influence Map?

OK! So you're all pumped up to find your voice as an artist, right?!

Even if you feel like you already know your style pretty well, I believe an artist's style should always be reflecting on itself and growing and evolving. Unless you plan on remaining the same exact person you are today for the rest of your life. Which would be boring.

The things you absorb (like books, movies, music, conversations, and experiences) are a big part of who you are as a person, and therefore who you are as an artist.



Reflecting on What You Absorbed

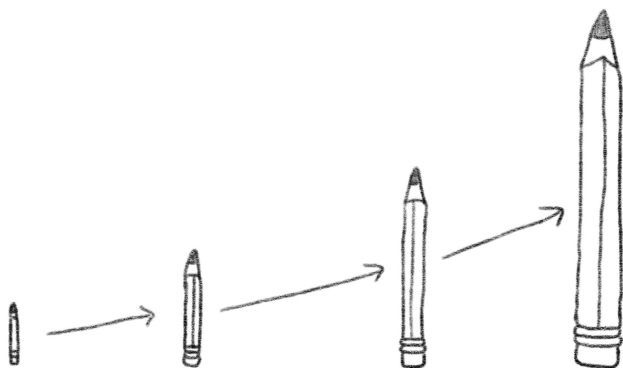
And one of the most influential times of your life is when you're young, so it makes sense that the things you absorbed then would have a huge impact on you artistically now.

You were also most likely learning to write and draw when you were young and watching all those tv shows and movies and reading those books, so some of it was bound to seep in!

Looking back on those influences can often give you insight into your artistic style and how it's developing.

So to find or reflect on our style, we're going to make an Influence Map!

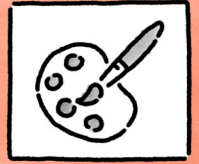
You are what you eat, so let's look at the things we ate when we were young!





A Might Could Guide:

MAKING AN INFLUENCE MAP



_____ 's INFLUENCE MAP

1	2	
		3
4	8	
5		6
		7

1: _____	4: _____	7: _____
2: _____	5: _____	8: _____
3: _____	6: _____	

Template by Christine Fleming for students enrolled in her Skillshare course: Art School Boot Camp: Developing Your Style

Steps to Make an Influence Map

Step 1: Save the blank Influence Map template at the end of this PDF as a separate file.

Step 2: Make a list of all your favorite movies, tv shows and books when you were young. You can add another category like video games or get rid of any categories you don't care about! You could even ask your parents if they remember what some of your favorite things were when you were young.

Step 3: Narrow down your list to 8 things.

Step 4: Use Google to find images from those things and take screenshots of them.

Step 5: Arrange the screenshots into the template using Photoshop or any other image editing software, cropping the images as necessary.

Step 6: Fill in the labels with the appropriate names.

Uh... Now What?

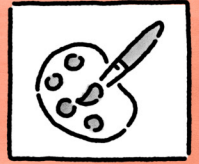
Check out the next page to see my influence map and learn how we can use these maps to help find out styles!





A Might Could Guide:

MAKING AN INFLUENCE MAP



CHRISTINE'S INFLUENCE MAP



1: *My Neighbor Totoro*, Hayao Miyazaki 4: *The Lion King*
 2: *Max the Dog*, Maira Kalman 5: *Sailor Moon*
 3: *Pokemon* 6: *Edward Gorey*
 7: *Busy Town*, Richard Scarry 8: *Our Bodies*, Time Life

Favorite movies when I was young:

- My Neighbor Totoro, Hayao Miyazaki
- Lion King

My favorite TV shows were:

- Sailor Moon
- Busy Town, Richard Scarry (also a book series)

My favorite books were:

- Max the Dog, Maira Kalman
- Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, by T. S. Eliot, Edward Gorey
- Time Life Learning Library books

My favorite miscellaneous thing:

- Pokemon, specifically JigglyPuff

My Influence Map

I made my influence map a while ago during a when I was wallowing and floundering and was very unsure about what my style was at all.

Making this map helped me pinpoint new realms to explore based on my childhood interests that I had forgotten about as an adult, like the nonfiction books from the Time Life Learning Library!

It also showed me visual styles that I've always been drawn to, as well as subject matters, and even specific artistic techniques.

Study Your Map

After you've made your Influence Map, study it to see if it gives you any insights into your own work!

The map can give you clues of paths to follow in the future when you feel uncertain about what direction to go in. Even once you start to feel more comfortable with your artistic style, you'll definitely still have moments where you feel lost. I do all the time!

Your Influence Map can be a great way to bring you back home to your earliest interests and influences and remind you of your earliest loves and obsessions.

Thanks!

Thanks so much for downloading this guide to making an influence map! I hope you enjoyed it and decide to make your map to discover or reflect on your own artistic style! **Now let's go make stuff!**

_____ 'S INFLUENCE MAP

1

2

3

4

8

5

6

7

1: _____
2: _____
3: _____

4: _____
5: _____
6: _____

7: _____
8: _____