How to develop your own calligraphy writing style with a crayola marker!

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Calligraphy vocabulary lesson:

- Ascender
- Ascender Loop
- X-Height
- Descender
- Descender Loop
- Baseline
- Flourish
- Exit

A little lesson on Typography

Typography (noun.)
- Style or appearance of text
- The art of working with text

When creating letter forms that are uniform throughout the entire alphabet a good rule of thumb to remember is that every letter should stack evenly over the ‘o’.

o a b c
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Slant & Spacing

Slant

No slant:

\[ \text{abcd} \]

60 degree slant:

\[ \text{abcd} \]

Practice writing a line slanted ‘O’s. Try to keep all of your ‘O’s at the same degree of slant. It’s helpful to use a guide sheet to make sure your letters are all slanted at the same angle.

\[ \text{0000} \]

Practice your ‘B’ without any slant. Adjusting the angle of your paper can help you write at the desired degree of slant.

\[ \text{bbb} \]
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Slant & Spacing

Practice writing the letter ‘H’ with an exaggerated slant.

Spacing

Practice writing the alphabet with different amounts of spacing between letters.

Example:

Lots of space  

tight space

*Keep in mind you want to keep even amounts of spacing between each letter. For example if you choose to have your letters spaced wide, you want to keep the same amount of wide spacing between each letter.
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Attitude of Letters

Using tools like spacing, slant, and letter characteristics can help us communicate an attitude or mood with our lettering.

Characteristics

Practice giving your lettering different characteristics.

Tall + Thin

Wide + Loose

Bouncing Baseline

Practice these different letter characteristics:

Tight + Slanted
Curved + Loose
Bouncing letters
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Attitude of Letters

Practice using a combination of different characteristics, spacing, and slant to create different moods with your lettering.

For example:

Joyful

Elegant

Dreamy

Casual

Unfriendly

Make up your own mood and create a lettering style to feel like the mood.
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Exploring Letter Forms

Make a collage of the same letter as many different ways as you can! You can mix both uppercase and lowercase letters.

*aAa aAa aAa aAa aAa aAa aAa aAa*

*You can do this exercise with each letter of the alphabet! Look for various ways to write each letter. You’ll find you like certain ways to write each of your letters.*
Choose a word or phrase to write. Match it’s mood with a lettering style that communicates the mood of the word/phrase you chose.

For Example:
I chose Banana Split. These are the words that come to mind when I think of a Banana Split:

-Sweet, Yummy, Sprinkles, Fun!

I chose to make my letters bubbly and rounded with a bouncing baseline. Now it’s your turn!

Keep Practicing!
As you continue to explore different styles of lettering you will begin to develop your own lettering style. You will find your more drawn to certain styles than others. Keep in mind that over time your style and preference might change and that’s ok! Keep lettering my friends!