Introduction:
Artists use the grid technique in several ways. Grids help artists ensure their proportions are correct. They help simplify an image the artist is trying to recreate. And grids can be used in mural work when the artist is starting with a small-scale image and needs to enlarge it to go up on a wall. In this lesson we’ll take a look at the grid technique using several Barack and Michelle Obama portraits.

Materials:
white sketch paper
pencils
erasers
a ruler

Preparation:
• Using a ruler create a grid making one-inch squares.
• You will need 8 squares across the top of the page and 10 squares going down the page.
• Mark the squares going across the top with the letters A, B, C, D, etc.
• Mark the squares going down the page with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.

*NOTE – The top left square will share “A” and “1”
Process

- Choose one of the attached templates.
  - There are three levels for Barack Obama. Level 1 being the easiest and level 3 the hardest.
  - There are two levels for Michelle Obama.
- Print out your template and mark the grid with letters (A, B, C, D, etc.) and numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) just like you did on your own grid.

- Either going in order or by choosing randomly, start filling in your grid using the template as a guide.

- Once you’ve completed your drawing, erase the grid.
Barack Obama Template – Level 1
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*NOTE – This is a simplified version of Barack Obama “Hope” Poster by Shepard Fairey, 2008.
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Barack Obama Template – Level 3
*NOTE – This is a simplified version of President Barack Obama by Kehinde Wiley, 2018.
Michelle Obama Template – Level 1

*NOTE – This is a simplified version of Michelle O by Mickalene Thomas, 2008.
Michelle Obama Template – Level 2

*NOTE – This is a simplified version of First Lady Michelle Obama by Amy Sherald, 2008.