Comics & Culture
Overview & Student Projects
F2018

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http://spinweaveandcut.com/education-home/
Comics Studies @SFSU
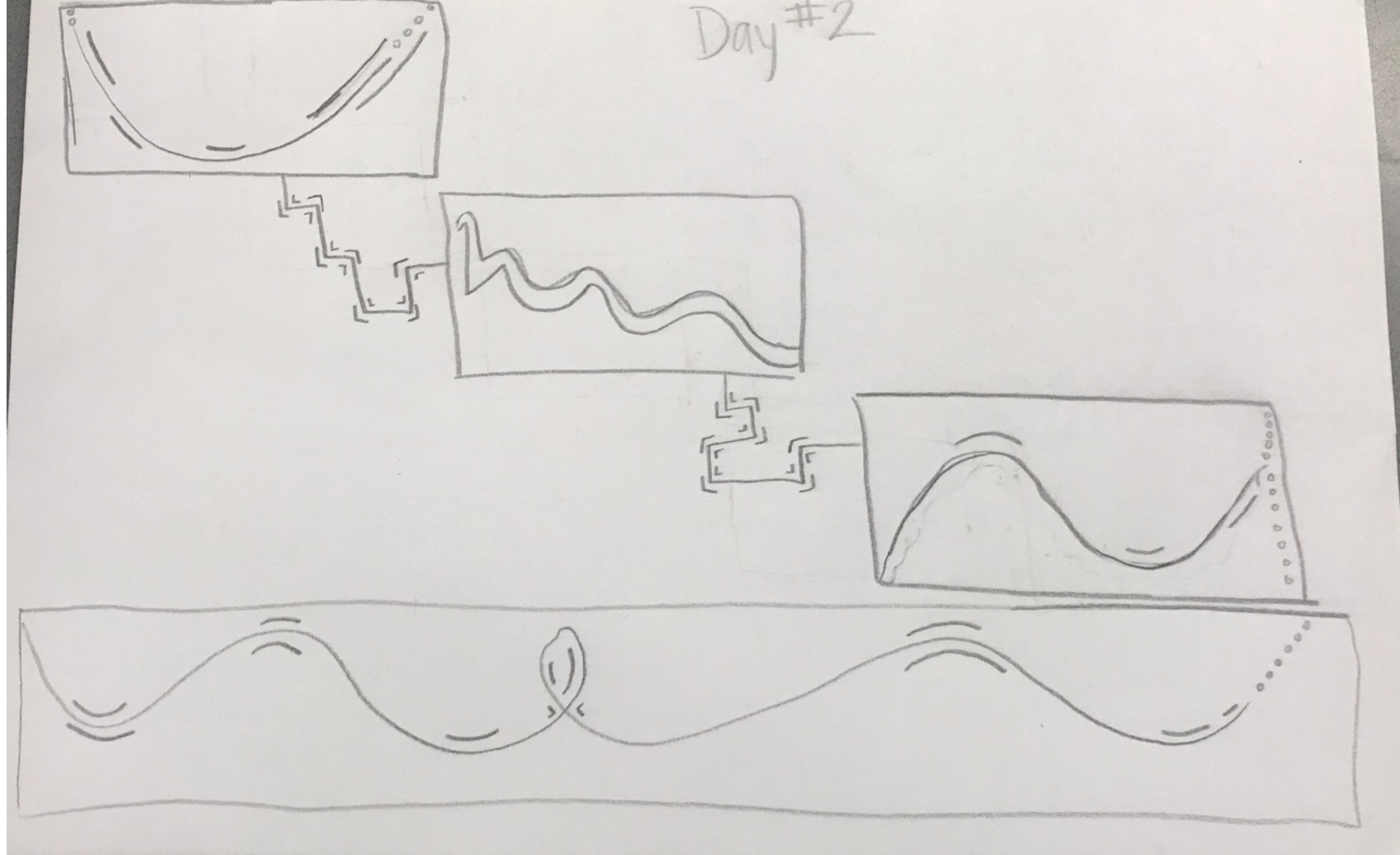https://humanitiesliberalstudies.sfsu.edu/minor-comics-studies

Part 1: Grids& Gestures, Drawing You

Grids & Gestures

post your grids & gestures non-representational comic from class
and write a brief reflection about what's going on in your comic
and any other thoughts that you have on making it.

info on grids & gestures is here http://spinweaveandcut.com/grids-gestures/ (direct link
here: http://spinweaveandcut.com/eisner-class-grids-gestures-redux/)

Day #2

Leslie

so this is a reflection of my first day of school today. It's was kind of crazy because it's commuting and sitting in a car for 3 hours in traffic. so in the first box it is suppose to symbolize going fast and and kind of nervous for this first day. the second box is slowly getting there and basically the road. the third box is just feeling tired. then the long box/rectangle is how long my day feels like its going and all the mix emotions im feeling.

Daylan: Each box represents a different phase/activity of my typical day, from slowly waking up in the morning, to my routine activities, work, and then back to sleep. The "boxes" without straight edges represent activities in which my mind isn't in a standard mode of thinking/being but rather in a focused state of awareness such as during yoga or meditation. These "boxes" are generally empty but do contain some intermittent squiggly thoughts. The largest, most energy and time consuming activity is work, shown in the largest, sporadic and loud colored box.
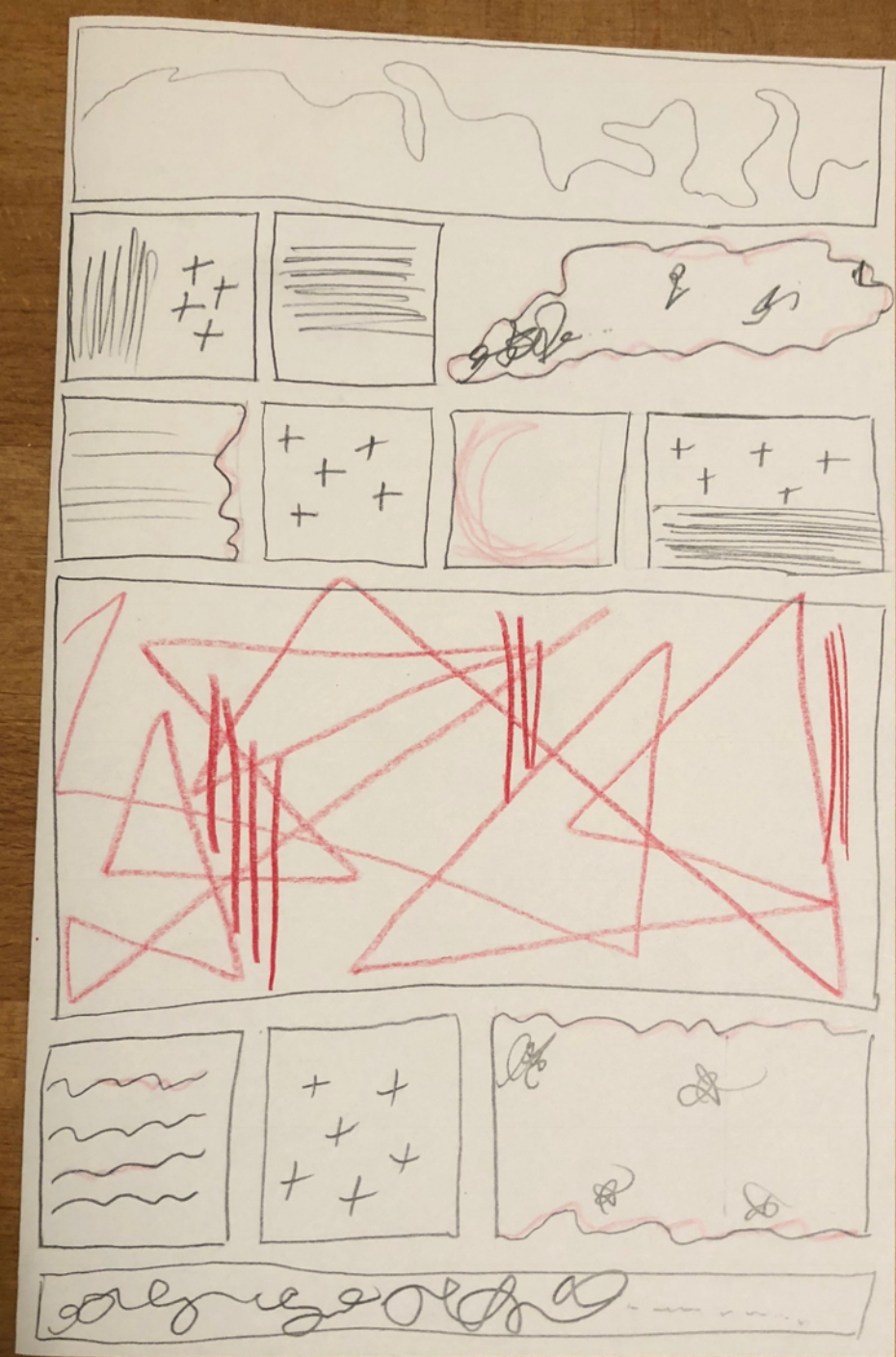
Rick: I like what you said about the images in your drawings being a visual representations of your thoughts. I usually try to compartmentallize my day in my head to stay organized and prioritized. I used the shape and size of the boxes to organize the priorities of the events of my day from getting out of bed till shutting down for the night. The boxes are in chronologic order and the lines inside represent the pattern of chaos vs organization during those segments of my day.
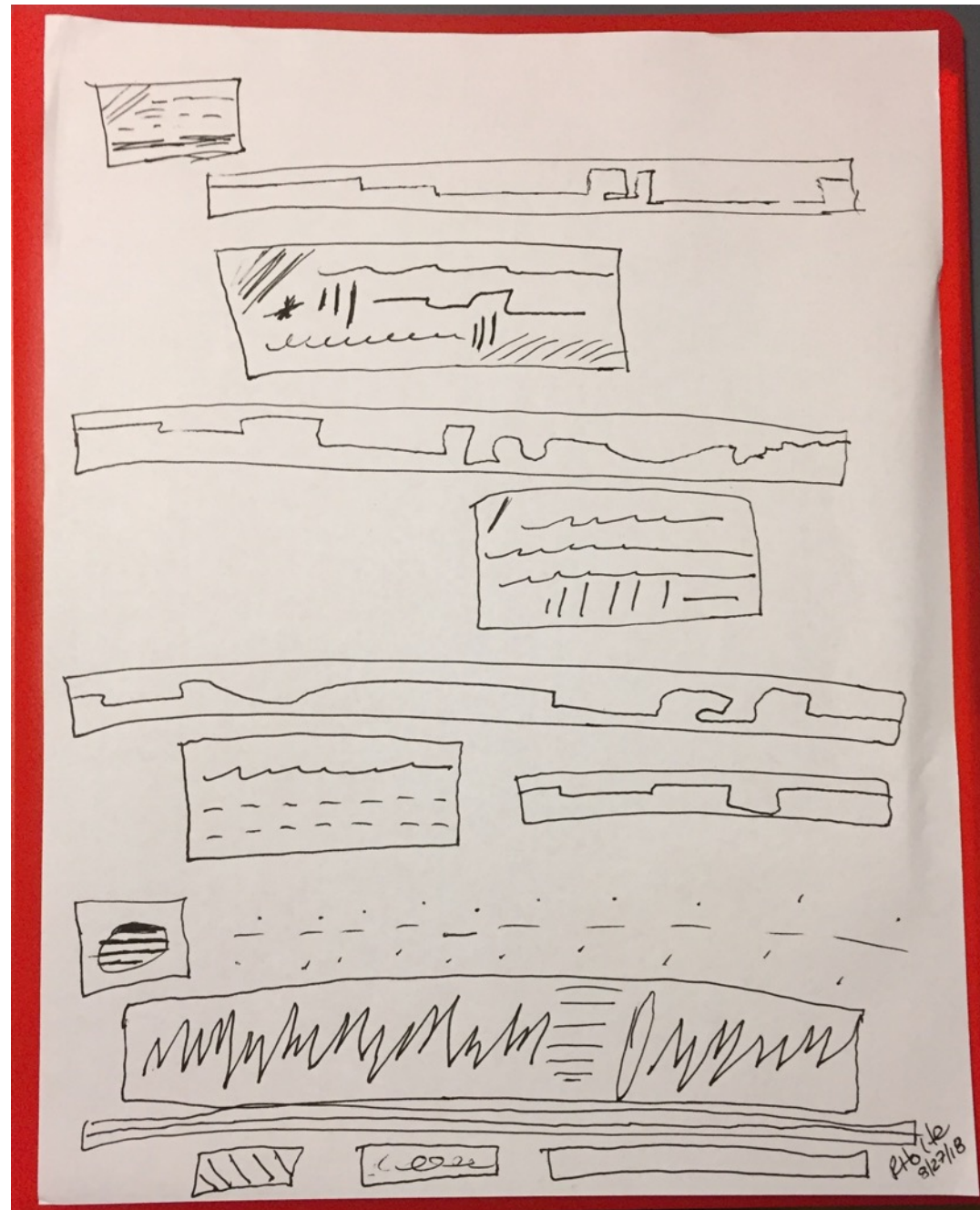
Samantha: In this drawing, this is what my mind was like during the first day of school. In the top rectangle the thick line starts off straight then curves upwards due to the amount of circles. It represents me waking up feeling excited about starting my first day at SF State. In the middle rectangle, it is filled with circles then it's being overlapped by the triangles and squares. This is me worrying about walking into the wrong class and being late to my first class of the day. In the bottom rectangle, everything is all over the place and then they are all spread out. This is me starting to panic but, I calmed down once I found my class everything turned out alright.

What I learned from this exercise is how to express my feeling by drawing only shapes. I thought that circles was the best way to express excitement and shapes overlapping expresses both nervousness and excitement.
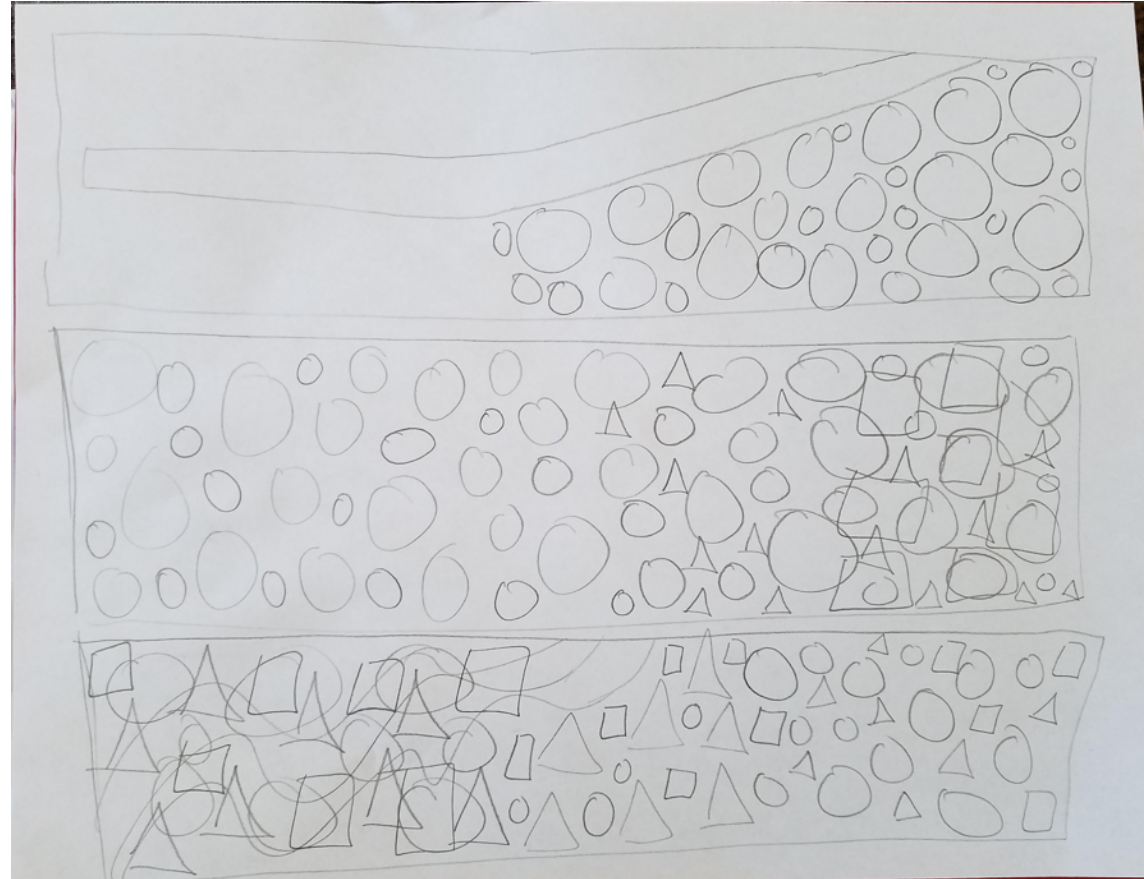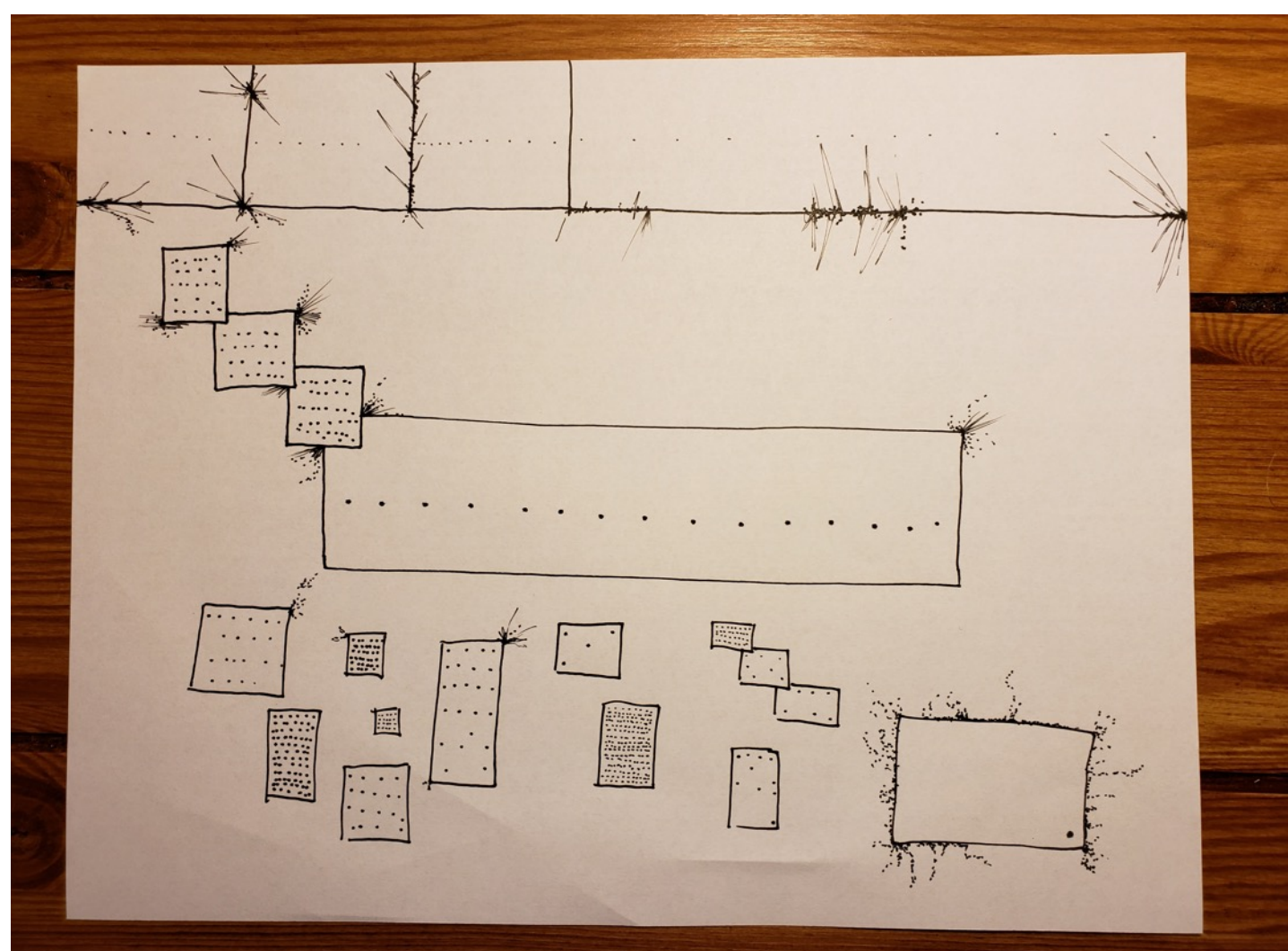
Gina: I began drawing squares not only to emphasize the comic form, but to show exact pieces or "fragments" that made up my day. Inside the squares I used dots to communicate my breath and heart; the further the dots are separated/ the less there are signals a calmness, and many dots within a square signal a kind of chaos. I also stippled dots and lines outside and along the boxes to show the manifestation of my body and mind throughout the day. I also wanted to leave an ample amount of empty space around the boxes to also highlight my body spatially, since there were moments where I was alone (represented by the larger, spatially isolated squares) as well as moments where I was in a crowd (represented by the smaller, closely together squares).
I really enjoyed this exercise since I need practice with drawing within a time limit!

Lynsey: Still Posting sideways even after a full semester of doing this haha. It was interesting doing the activity again and comparing it with the one I did last semester. I noticed that my grids and gestures have become more vague. I'm not trying to draw objects but instead I am allowing for more analysis and opportunity with my drawing.
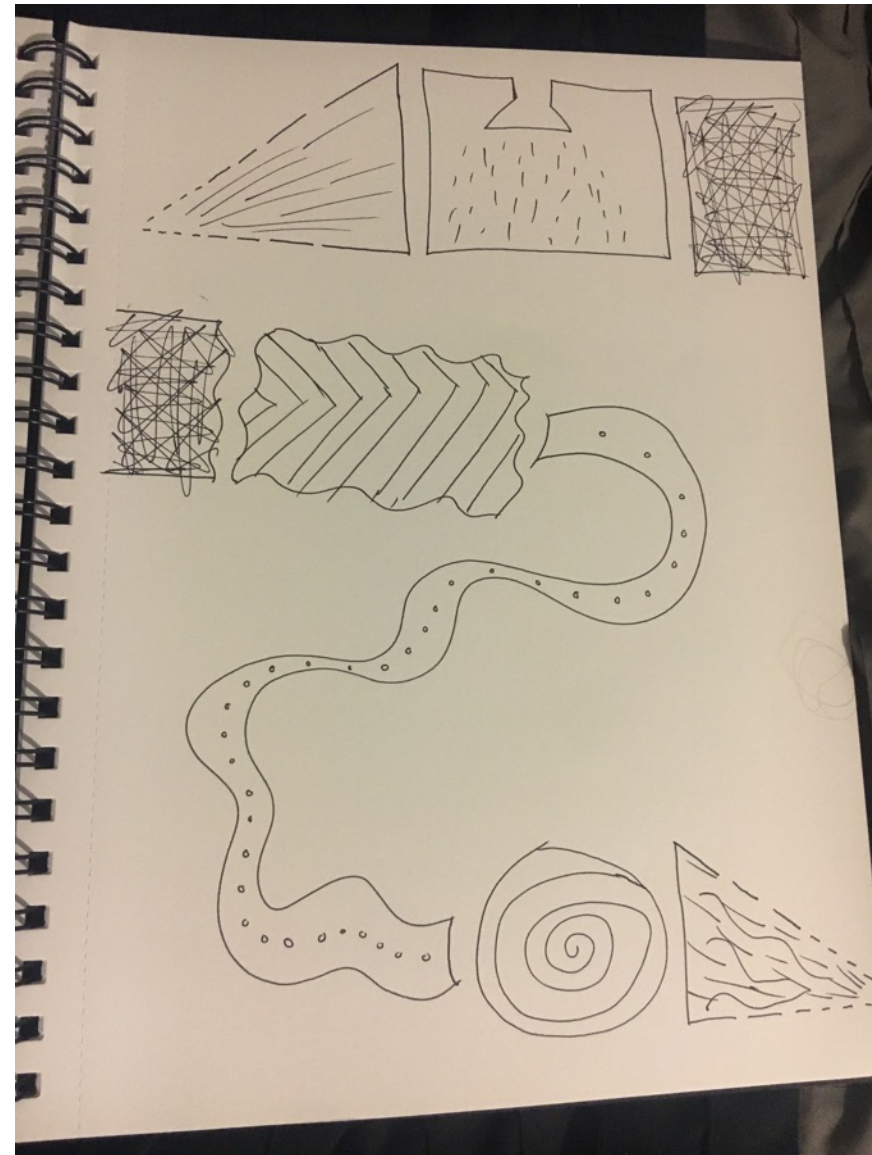
Erika: The first two panels represents being woken up by the street cleaner and then a bunch of annoying crows in the wee hours of the morning and the haphazard thinking that takes place between sleeping and waking/ the slow unfolding of coming back into consciousness after the restless sleep. The third is my long bus ride and the people and scenery I observed both inside and outside. The fourth, fifth, and sixth panels represent me snaking my way through crowds and objects on campus / making several stops along the way to get food, forms signed, talking to people, etc. The seventh panel represents the break I took before class to listen to some music, and eighth-eleventh panels represent our class time (the sparseness is a good thing, a connecting of the dots)! This is the second (or third?) time I have done this exercise and I think the first time I did it , I was trying to make it "look like something" compared to this time, where I allowed the gesture to guide me into some sort of subconscious representation.
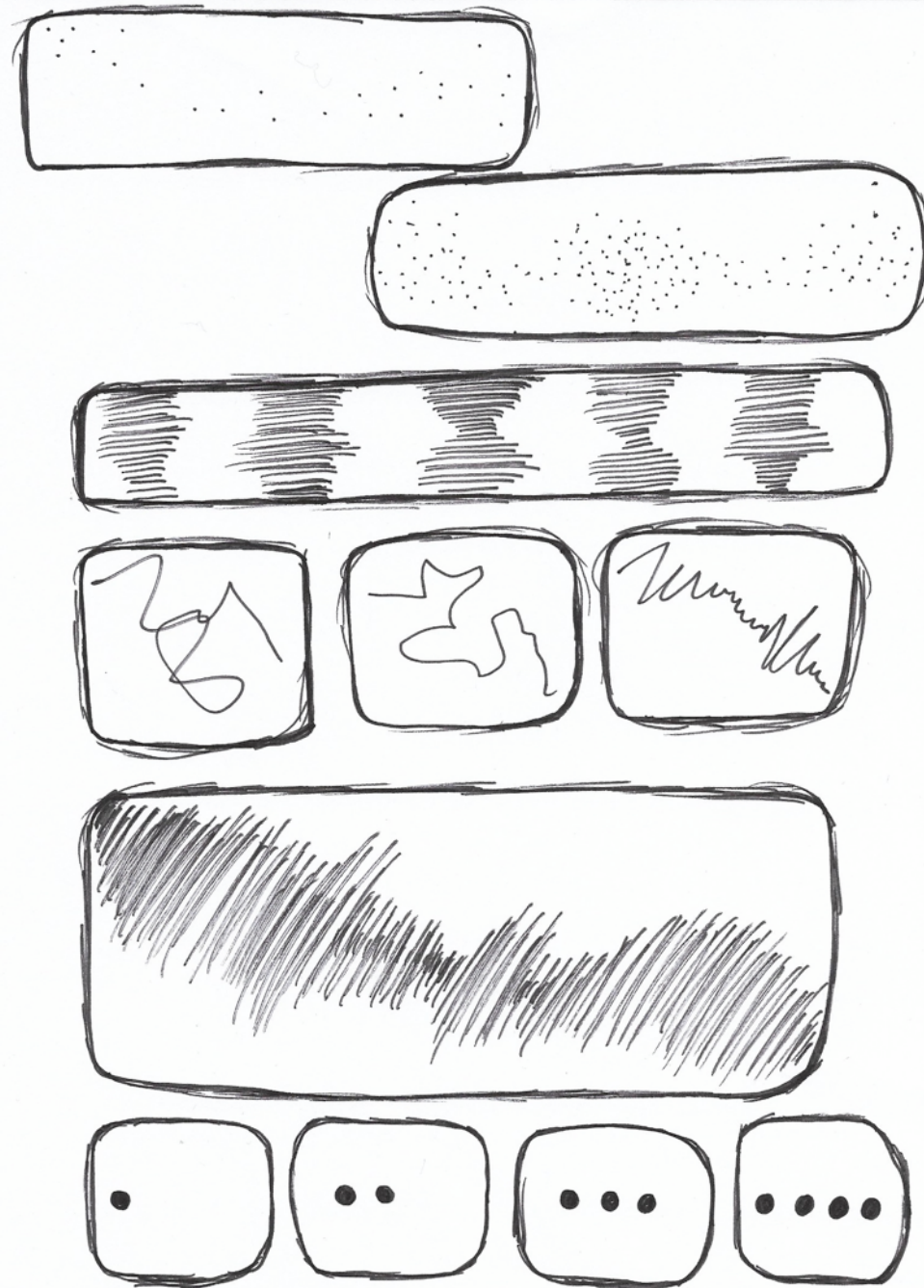
Chad: As of these past few days I have been really getting hit with allergies and because of that I decided to draw out what my morning was like today from around 1am up until my way to school on Bart which was delayed. But beyond my allergies giving me a stuffy nose and being a nuisance the entire day, I thankfully was not late to class... so no need to leave light on for me.
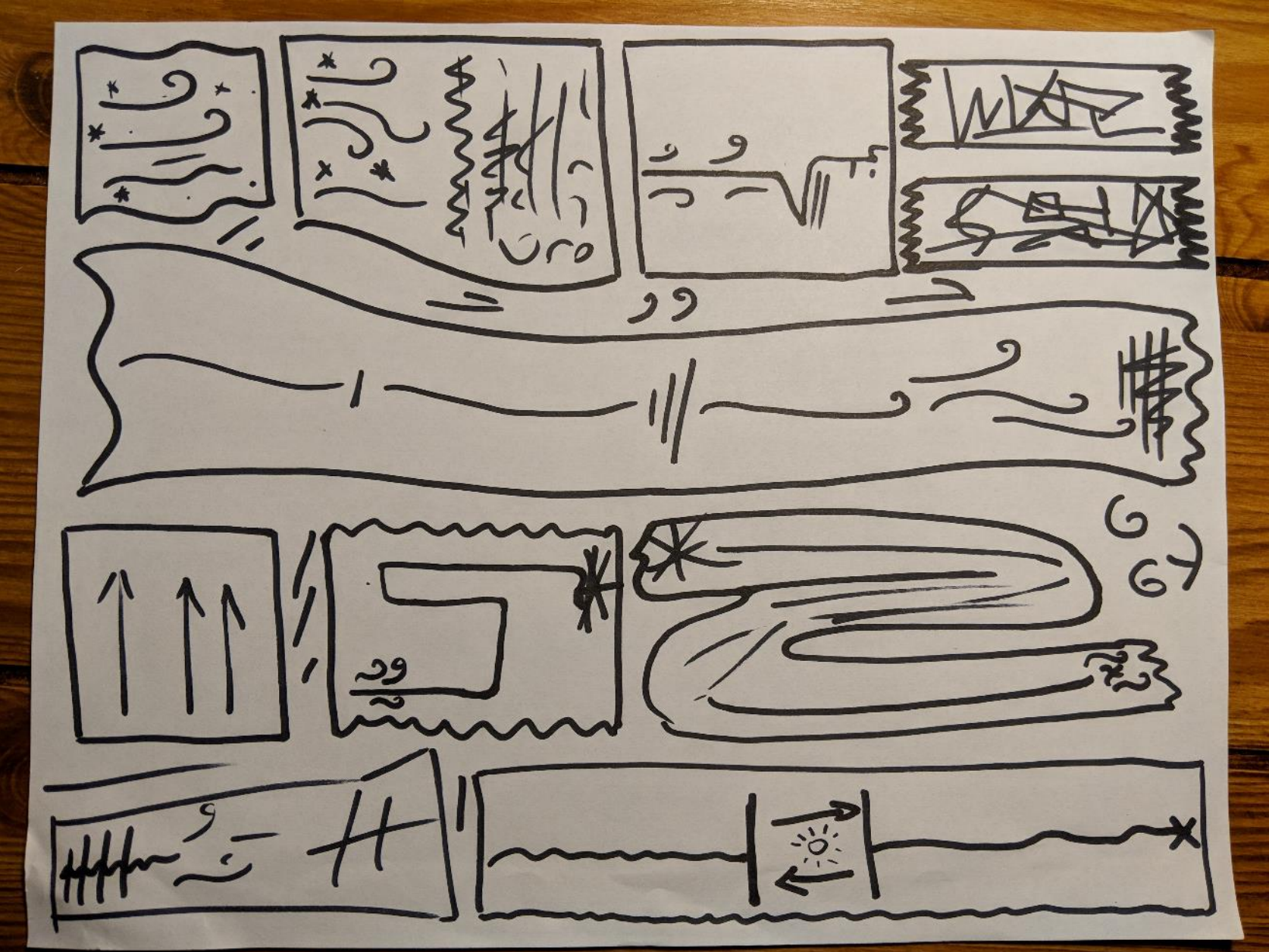
Summer: the first two panels represent my morning, waking up to a loud alarm and then enjoying a nice meal. Then I realize I was going to be late so I scrambled to get my things together followed by running straight to the muni. The straight random lines represent my walk to class being as efficient as possible. The little dashes and lines describe my computer science class I was taking because that's pretty much all I got out of syllabus day. Then I had a mellow walk with loud music to this class that got interrupted by a phone call from my homie. I was then perplexed in class at the thought of things being music notes, I really like that concept. Finally I predicted the end of my day with more music on my way to get some lunch then the unpredictable of what my next class would be like.
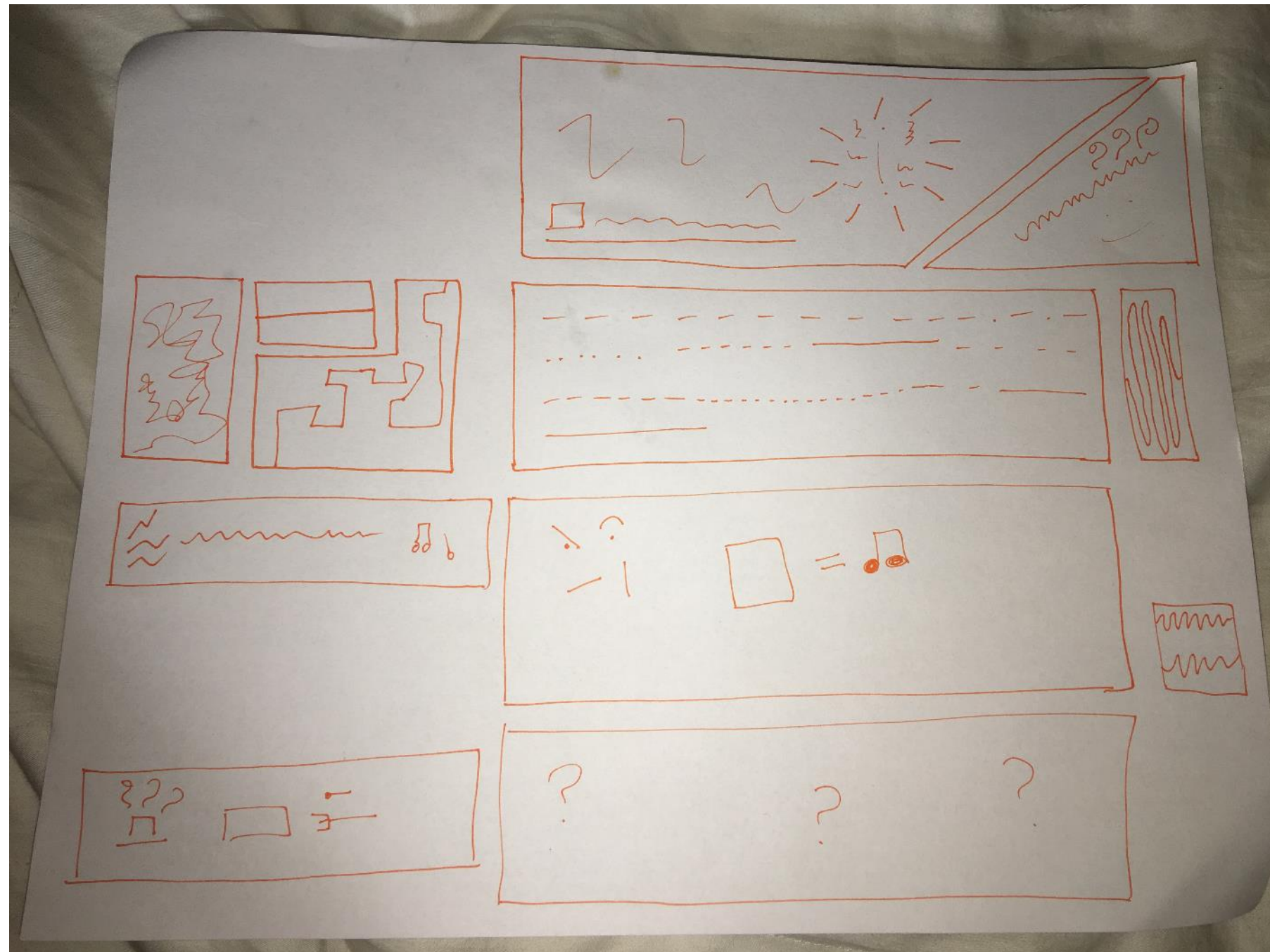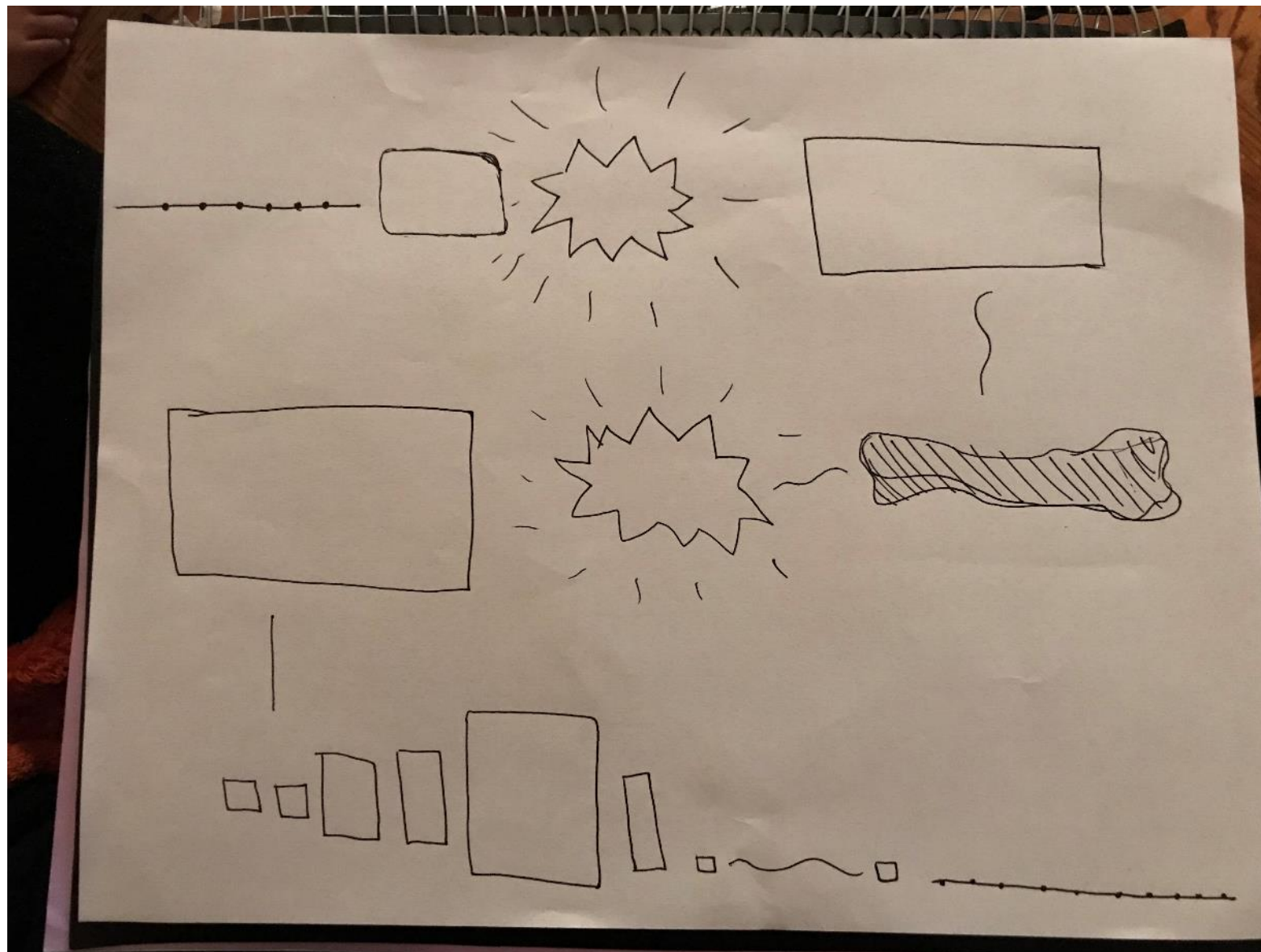
Monica: This described my first day of classes (8/27): So it started with sleep and a slow pace to the day, then the rounded-is square is me getting ready, normal pace then it leads to the burst of energy or drama I got from rushing to school, anxiously finding parking, drinking coffee and generally waking up. It leads to the larger more pointed shape which signified the steadiness of my classes, then I got very sluggish and sleepy, then more caffeine and a rush to work after classes, then more steadiness at work, which turned into a consistently boring and steady day until I lost ally energy and went to sleep again.

Emmy: I decided to not focus on any particular day but just get a general feel for how my days usually go. I tried to make abstract representations of my activities as well as my emotions during them. I wanted to play with box shapes to help emphasize the importance or activity but it still feels a bit traditional.

Emily: My picture explains the lay out of my day. In the left corner describes my town house and how this morning it was crazy with my roommates getting ready, trying to eat breakfast etc. Everything in the middle is different sections of the campus. The image that looks like a sun is the quad, because there was tables set up for clubs and Greek life; very colorful. Around the quad I drew what I think the buildings felt like trying to find my classes. The top left corner, is the Burke Hall. Too many stairs and didn't realize that one of my classes is in the basement. The triangle is Humanities. The water lines are the paths and walkways. What I learned is that every image describes a unique perspective of what I go through vs. what other people go through. We all have different days. Some days go smooth and others can be rough. We can look at something and feel positive vibes while others can see negative ones. Looking at my picture gives me a clear picture of my day and what I experience on my first day of school.

Drawing You!

In class, they each made sketches of themselves – one without looking the second using your camera or mirror, and then shared a brief reflection about the process of making them – which did you like better, etc.
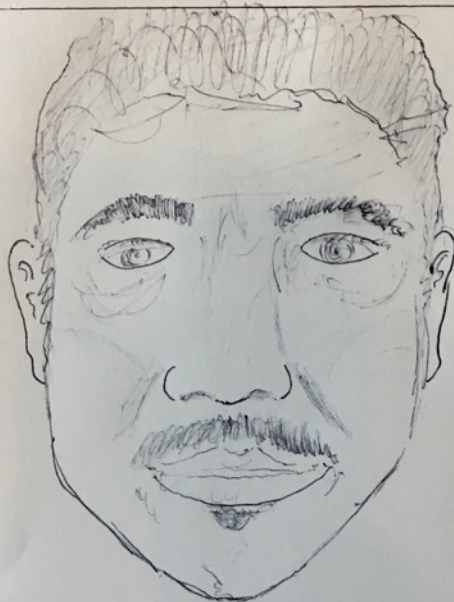
Nicholas: Drawing myself without a picture was easy in the sense that I had no frame of reference other than what was in my memory, so the act of drawing was quicker and more fluent. Using the camera on my phone provided something to "draw" from, yet is difficult to be precise and accurate. Interesting experience drawing yourself; another method of self-reflection.

Ellis: I personally like the simplistic drawing better since it reflects my cartoonish drawing style. I'm not a huge fan of realistic drawings though I do respect the art.

Shari: I was surprised that the free hand drawing was easier than copying from a photo. There was a lot of self criticism when I was trying to copy the photo. I never thought I could draw people.

Chad: So the first drawing on top is what I completed in class with a pencil/sharpie with a more cartoony look that I lean towards when drawing without any reference, however it doesn't look that much like me beyond the glasses and maybe the hair which is something I focus on since they're kinda distinct with me. The second drawing on the bottom is what I worked on at the second half of the activity with a pencil and microns however was only able to really get the hair, face shape, glasses and eyebrows done. The rest I finished on my commute back home. Now while I believe it looks way more like me than the top drawing, I still find it off. The one I liked best is actually the two little doodles I drew next to the top one because I like the more simple cartoon look it has and the one with bangs was the avatar of myself I'd draw when I was a kid so it just resonates more with me. Looking at it now though, I can see that my quick sketches shown on top look sort of like an outline for what can be seen as a final drawing on the bottom.
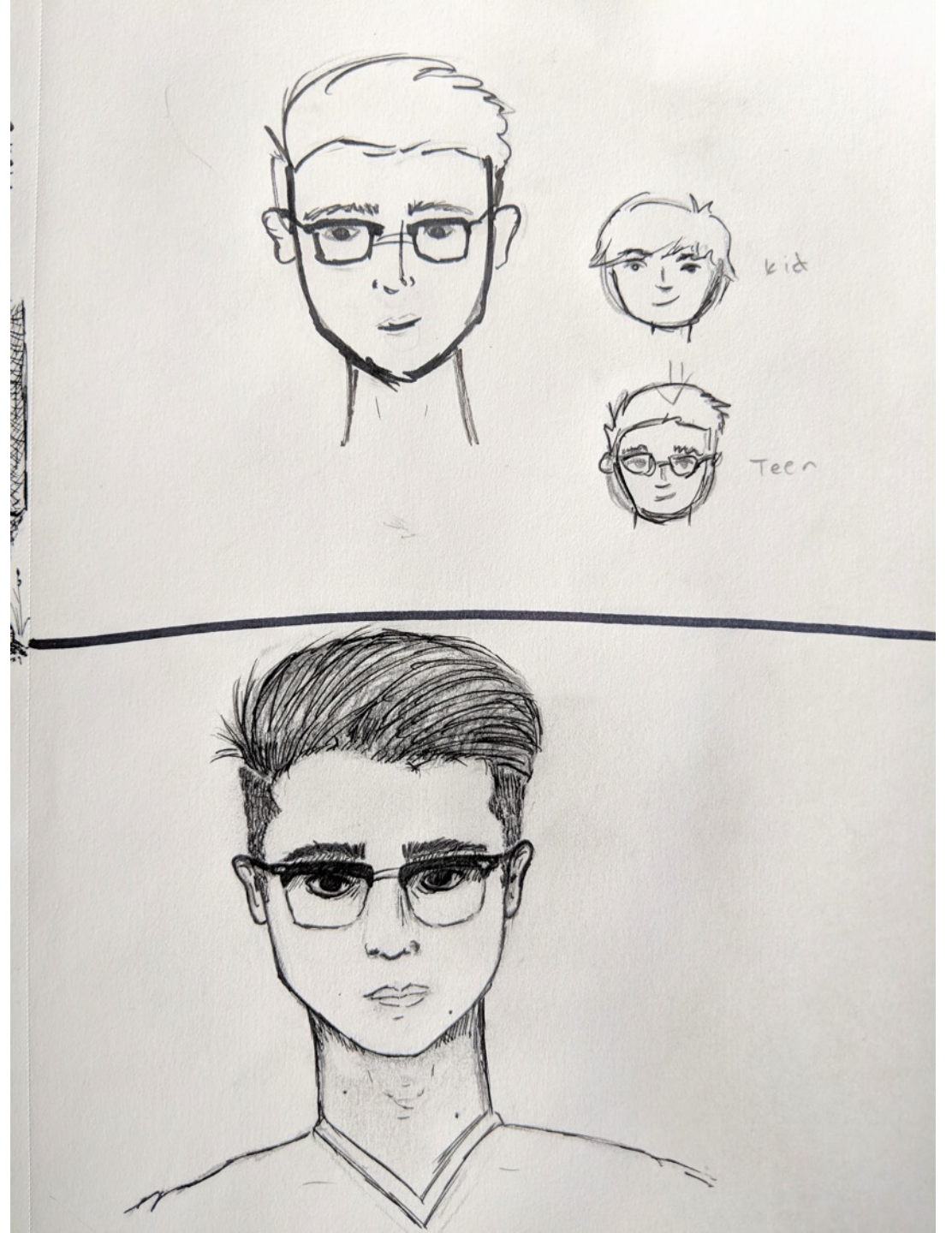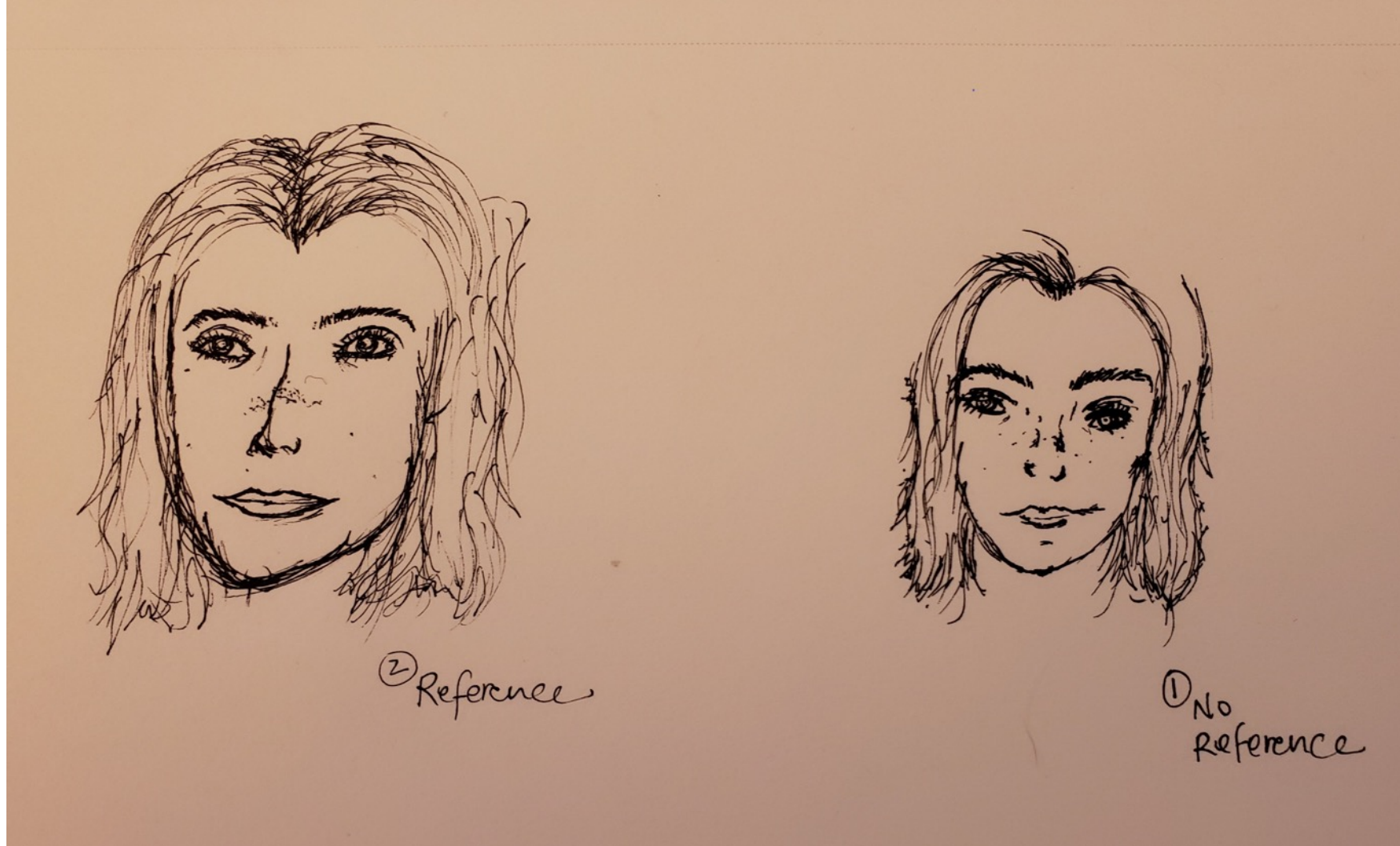
Gina: Although I do not think either of these sketches look like me, I enjoyed drawing without reference more than looking at a photo of myself. I finished up the photo reference sketch at home, but even while drawing in class, I found myself doubting myself more and becoming critical of my work, concerned if one freckle was out of place. The first non-reference photo allowed me to trust myself and just draw.
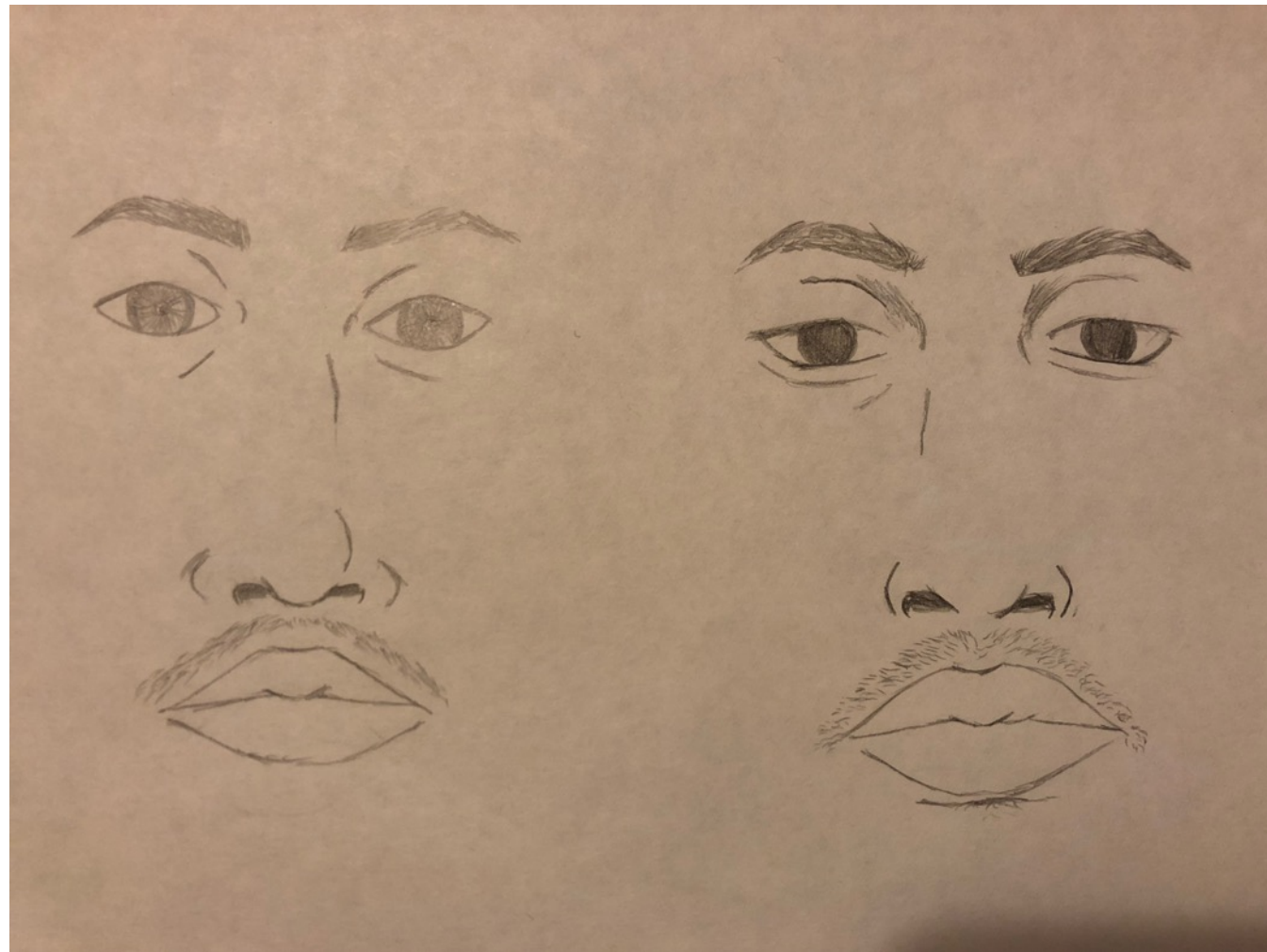
Justin: I think what I like the most about this activity is the difference between what I think my face looks like versus what it actually looks like. It's not everyday where I get to draw my face.

Ariana: Creating the drawing without referencing a picture was much easier for me than drawing without one. I found that looking at a picture of myself caused me to focus a lot of energy on perfecting lines and matching the curves in the picture. Without a reference, I was able to draw with fluidity and focus on my face in my mind. Despite the challenges, I like the final version of both drawings as I feel they both capture the essence of how I look.