

## FLORAL ARRANGING

### ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN:

1. **Emphasis:** The focal point should be in the front, slightly above the rim of the container. Add more flowers in the center to provide more shapes and intense color.
2. **Balance:** Asymmetrical arrangements are more popular because they look more natural. Nevertheless, the arrangement should look stable, not like it is going to fall over.
3. **Proportion and scale:** the smallest flowers should be furthest from the visual center.
4. **Space:** Use negative space wisely. Empty spaces add interest.
5. **Rhythm:** Remember opposition, repetition, radiation, transition, and gradation.
6. **Harmony and unity:** Do the parts blend together? Is there a repeated or a related flower type, color or texture?
7. **Line:** Horizontal lines are more relaxed. Vertical lines represent strength. Curved lines show gentleness.
8. **Form:** Geometric shapes create a three-dimensional outline.
9. **Texture:** Incorporate smooth, glossy, rough, etc.
10. **Color:** Colors represent different meanings:
  - Red: love, fire, blood, excitement
  - Yellow: cheerfulness, carefree
  - Blue: peacefulness
  - Violet: royalty, religion

### To properly care for cut flowers:

1. Cut with a knife--scissors crush the plant.
2. Add "7-Up" to the water.
3. If flowers are warm, use warm water.
4. Remove leaves that will be under the water.
5. Store flowers at 40 degrees, if possible.
6. Keep the water clean.

Things to consider when selecting flowers:

1. The season
2. Colors to match a color scheme
3. Size of design and flowers
4. Cost
5. Shapes of flowers influencing line and design

To make an arrangement:

1. Select a suitable container, one that holds water, supports weight, and is deep enough.
2. Leave the foam, frog, or oasis 1-2" above the rim of the container.
3. Set skeleton flowers or foliage in the containers. This sets the geometrical limits or boundaries for the design (spiked, gladiolas, snapdragons).
4. Form flowers to create a visual path, allowing space for openness (lilies, orchids, daffodils, irises).
5. Add mass flowers and foliage, one stem with a single flower, smaller at the top, larger at the bottom (roses, carnations, tulips, daisies).
6. Add filler flowers and foliage for the finishing touch (statice, heather, baby's breath, wax flowers).

Additional tips:

1. Use an odd number of flowers.
2. The height of the top flower should be about 2 times the height of the vase.
3. Don't balance flowers too perfectly.
4. Put different types of flowers next to each other—add variety.
5. Don't cross stems or branches—it looks confusing and distracting.
6. Don't fill the container too full—remember the value of negative space.
7. Avoid unusual cultural or seasonal combinations.
8. Keep the highest point over the base of the arrangement.
9. Place delicate flowers in the upper part of the arrangement, and darker, heavier flowers lower.

Discuss the transparency "BASIC SHAPES IN FLORAL DESIGN". Which designs are the "typical" floral designs? Can students think of an example of a unique floral design they have seen and appreciated?