



Advisor's Notes

Purpose: The goal of the sketch project is to teach students the difference between seeing and observing an object. This is a fundamental skill when observing nature. It is not unusual when students observe nature that they take a quick glimpse and do not truly view all the details an object has to offer. Sometimes the most obvious details (such as the spherical shape of a ball) are the hardest to "see" when writing a description.

Directions: Provide students with an everyday object to sketch, such as a ball. Encourage them to use pencils, especially colored pencils, or other drawing utensils that will allow them to erase mistakes. The smudging characteristics of pencils are advantageous when sketching space-based objects.

Things to look for: Make sure students fully fill out the form and describe and sketch the object completely. They may use the backside if they need more room for their description. Look for color, texture, shape, size, shadows, imperfections, and lighting.

Form Use: The sketch project form is the only one that does not need to be requested (although it can be requested) from Satelloid Headquarters. Photocopy forms as needed and supply them to new members. The completed project may be submitted at the same time as a new membership application.

Advisor's Comments: Before sending the form to Satelloid Headquarters please write a comment in the provided box. Start with a praise of some type and include any suggestions to the student for improvement.

Chief Astronomer Comments: The Chief Astronomer will review each submitted form and like-wise write a note of encouragement and offer suggestions for improvement, if needed.

Completed Form: If the project is properly completed the Chief Astronomer will sign and date the form. The form and certificate of completion will be included in the next package to you. Make sure to include a project request form to receive the satelloid member's next project.

Fun Follow-ups: (A) Make up a quiz to test your satelloid's observation skills. The quiz can include questions such as: How many windows are on front of your house? What is the license plate number on your parent's car? How many stairs are there to the second floor of the school? What colors are on the poster in the hallway? You want the questions to be about things they see everyday. Have them try to take the quiz at a meeting and then let them take it home. When they return let them compare the two and with each other to see how they did. This is a great re-enforcement and shows them first hand how much they see and don't observe things. **(B)** Show them a photo for two-minutes, take it away and have them write a description. Share results.