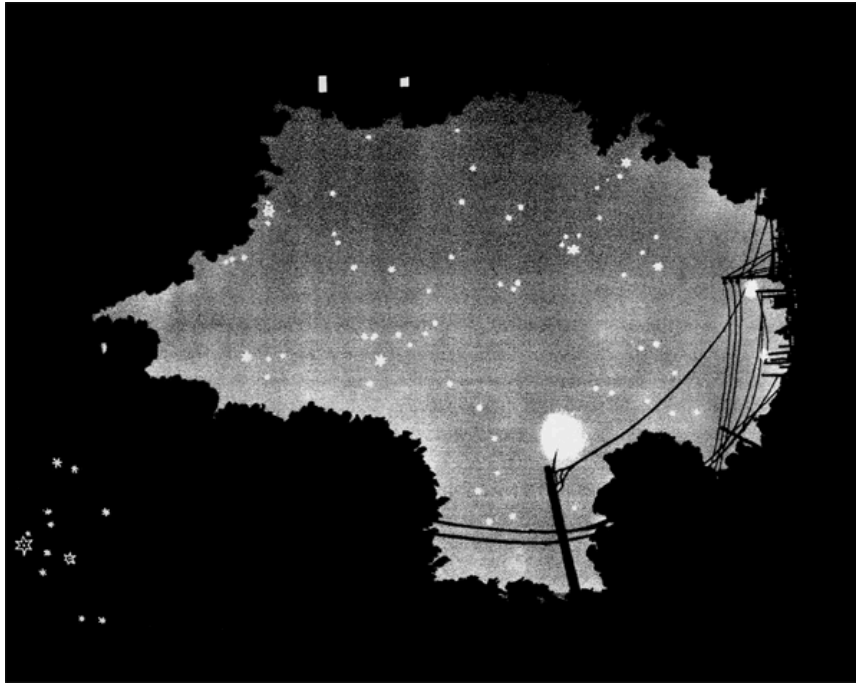


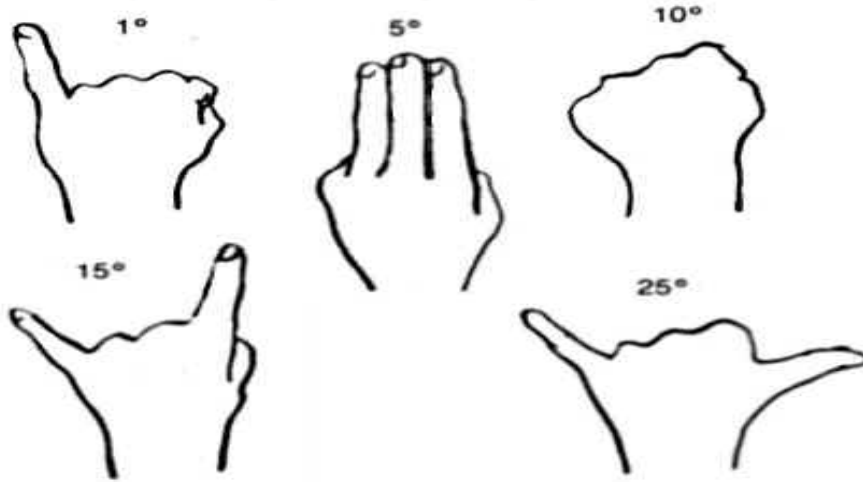
Top 10 Tips for Observing Assignments



1. Draw what you actually see, not what you think you should see (e.g. don't label faint stars you don't see or constellation lines just because they're on your planisphere)
2. Don't forget to include time, date, location, direction looking, and conditions (winds? clouds?)
3. When doing fist and finger measurements, don't just write the number – explain how you got there (e.g. two fists + three fingers = 23 deg)
4. Measure altitudes from the imaginary flat horizon, not an obstructed one (e.g. don't measure from the top of an obstruction up, but from where the horizon would be if the obstruction weren't there). In cases where it is easy to avoid obstructions (e.g. trees), move around to get a better view before making measurements.
5. Draw individual stars, not constellation lines. Capture the brightness of stars by making brighter stars bigger dots
6. Don't wait until the last minute. It may be cloudy.
7. It's almost always trivial to tell when people fake observations. **PLEASE** Don't do it.
8. No lined paper. No illegible drawings. Resketch once you get back inside if you must, but stay true to your original observation.
9. Cover your flashlight or cell phone light with red cellophane to preserve your night vision while sketching. Wait at least 10 minutes after going outside to start sketching so that your eyes have time to dark adapt.
10. Bring a friend, and be safe

“Fist and Finger” Measurement Cheat Sheet

Hold your arm out straight in front of you. At arm’s length, the following hand shapes constitute approximately the number of degrees indicated. Use these to estimate angular distances between objects in the sky.



Other Useful Observing Info

Monthly Sky Maps:

<http://www.skymaps.com/downloads.html>

Sunrise and Sunset Information:

https://www.weather.gov/mrx/sr_ss

2018 Moon Phases Calendar

Jan	1:☉, 8:☉, 16:☾, 24:☾, 31:☉
Feb	7:☉, 15:☾, 23:☉
Mar	1:☉, 9:☉, 17:☾, 24:☉, 31:☉
Apr	8:☉, 15:☾, 22:☉, 29:☉
May	7:☉, 15:☾, 21:☉, 29:☉
Jun	6:☉, 13:☾, 20:☉, 28:☉
Jul	6:☉, 12:☾, 19:☉, 27:☉
Aug	4:☉, 11:☾, 18:☉, 26:☉
Sep	2:☉, 9:☾, 16:☉, 24:☉
Oct	2:☉, 8:☾, 16:☉, 24:☉, 31:☉
Nov	7:☾, 15:☉, 23:☉, 29:☉
Dec	7:☾, 15:☉, 22:☉, 29:☉