

012. General Manga Tips from the Sweatdrop Collective

# Manga School



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MANGA STUDIOS  
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## SWEATDROP STUDIOS TIPS AND TRICKS ON CREATING YOUR OWN MANGA-STYLE ART

Calling all budding manga artists out there! Take a seat – the class is starting. Each issue in *NEO* magazine, different artists from Sweatdrop Studios will be taking you through the stages of creating a piece of art, from pencil sketches, through marker pieces, to full pages of manga! Each will be offering not only hints and tips on creating your own artwork, but also an insight into their own methods and techniques. With *NEO*'s competition just over and ICANOPUS's Ring Stars on the way, we present an article sharing the combined wisdom of the group, with top tips from our artists. Pencils at the ready! Class in progress...

### 1. NEVER SURRENDER!

Never give up! Even though you may feel like quitting sometimes, keep going until you've finished your comic. Try to take the pressure off yourself; remember that you are drawing to have fun. Don't be concerned about making your comic perfect; completing it's more important than drawing a masterpiece on the first page.



### 2. BE CONSISTENT

When creating any kind of comic, be it a fantasy story or a modern tale, you must always make the culture as consistent and well-planned as possible. The surroundings, buildings, clothes design, technology, time period – even how the characters act or talk, depending on their culture or upbringing – should be taken into account. Do your research: use reference images, photos or even Google Images, all of which can be very useful. Find references for everything that you'll need to plan and know how to draw, including specific things like dynamic angles, or details on clothes and weapons. All this will make your story, setting and characters much more believable and realistic.

### 2. BUILD UP SLOWLY

Always start with a short comic. Epics are all very well, but starting with a short story will give you experience of how much work is involved in finishing a comic, and that in turn will shape how you plan future stories. If you really can't bear not to work on your epic, try taking a standalone episode from it – a prologue, perhaps, or a side story. Once you've finished your first comic, your perspective will have changed – not to mention that finishing a comic is a fantastic feeling!



Do you want to  
take your manga  
to the next level?



