Hello! After all of our practice with realistic drawing, we are ready for our final project grid drawing. You will need a ruler or a strait edge, a printer or a photo from a magazine. (If you do not have these, see below.)

A grid drawing has two main parts:
1) A printed photograph with an even grid of lines drawn on top of it.
2) A sheet of paper to draw on, with the same exact style and number of grid lines drawn lightly in pencil.

The idea is simple and has been in use for hundreds of years. You can draw something very complex by drawing it one tiny section at a time. Most little grid squares on your photograph will not have much information in them. That's good! Just draw exactly what you see in the corresponding square of your drawing paper. Draw all the different fades, lights and darks, textures, and proportions that you notice, one square at a time.

Label both photograph and drawing paper grids exactly the same so you don't get lost. Tiny, light numbers in each square might help, or letters on the top row and numbers on the left side.

My example of Christopher Walken to the left is incomplete on purpose, so you can see the process. Work lightly and slowly matching the grey values from square to square. You can see my drawing is still very light compared to the photograph. Ideally, they will eventually look the same.

Tutorials:
If you find this difficult to understand, these videos may help. The first video is perfect if you don't have a ruler. It doesn't use a square grid.

A Simpler Way To Create A Grid Drawing by The Art of Education:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcNXSF7rfSg

Here's a good one which divided difficult squares even further for extra precision:

HOW TO: Using Grid Lines for Beginners by DJ JV:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFGqgdSTLiM&t=

For you advanced artists, here is an amazingly complex one by Dan Breadshaw:

How to Grid A Realistic Portrait Drawing!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFGqgdSTLiM&t=

If you want to practice with a cartoon, feel free…it is a fun way to draw!
But your unit is realism so we are working from REAL LIFE, not cartoons. This means you are still working with smooth shading, gradients (fades), and no cartoonish outlines. When you first start drawing, make sure outlines are sketchy and light enough that they will disappear as you begin to shade a full spectrum of grays from your pencil.

Good Luck! A quick google search for Realistic Grid Drawing will get you pretty far.

If you have no printer or magazine image to draw from, you can draw a self portrait by looking in the mirror or from your phone.