MAIL ORDER: Dick Blick (also in Sugarhouse), Jerry’s Artarama, Cheap Joes, Quality Art in Idaho. Some supplies @ Staples

PAPER
Sketch or Drawing pad
OPTIONS: 9 X 12 inch up to 18 X 24 inch
and/or
Copy/Bond Paper 8 1/2 X 11 or larger with a clip board (perfect for gesture practice)

My favorites:
Staples is good source for copy/bond paper

PENCILS
A pencil is best for learning to draw. A full length pencil also functions as a long tool to measure with.
A basic #2 pencil is fine. If it is wood, as you sharpen it, it becomes too short to measure angles and size relationships.
I prefer mechanical type pencils since they never become too short for measuring.
OPTIONS:
1 STEADTLER 2 mm lead holder with 2B lead: or HB, 3B, 4B lead options (available at art stores & Staples)
2 .7 mm mechanical pencil
3 I love these pencils for shading and developing a drawing, after the initial measuring. Difficult to find.
4 Wood pencil set

RULER OR OIL PAINTING BRUSH
CLEAR PLASTIC RULER (Staples carries them) or LONG THIN OIL PAINTING BRUSH IF YOU HAVE ONE or similar tool:
Either is helpful for checking angles and making accurate alignments, especially if your pencil is not straight on the sides.

ERASERS & SHARPENERS
Erasers and sharpeners to fit your particular pencils
The STEADTLER does not require a sharpener. You can break off the end, I will show you.
.7mm mechanical pencils do not need sharpeners.
Eraser suggestions: Faber-Castell DUST-FREE or Staedtler Mars Plastic, Kneaded erasers are another option

SUPPORT EASEL OR BOARDS
Your paper needs a support like the cardboard of the sketchbook, a clipboard for the bond paper.
A backing board of corrugated plastic, foam core or Masonite type board is helpful for larger papers, and for use at an easel. If you have a portable easel great! You do not need one, you can improvise. It is best to have your paper upright or at a slight angle to create accurate drawings. The more upright the board the more accurately you can draw. If you sit face a table, lean the pad or paper attached to support board against the table and let it rest on your thigh. Sit back far enough to get your elbow straight. You should be able to view your drawing and the image on the computer/subject from life at once, barely needing to rotate your body or arm. You could alternately place your support board and drawing pad against the back of a chair. You sit in another chair facing that chair. This is the easel I use: Richeson Italian Steel Tripod Easel

BULL CLIPS
Helpful for attaching paper and pads to support boards

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