# Shelf Styling Cheat Sheet

## Shop your home to build beautiful vignettes without spending a dollar.

Restyle your bookshelves using professional layering techniques. Gather forgotten vases, unused bowls, and books to achieve a curated designer look.



## Key Proportions

**1/3**
Overlap of the taller item behind

**30%**
Empty space of total linear width

**2/3**
Vertical space filled by leaning art

**3-4**
Flat books stacked as neutral risers

**3**
Similar materials for zig-zag triangle

**1**
Sentimental focal piece per shelf

## Styling Techniques

1. **Remove dust jackets** Reveal solid linen or matte covers to instantly calm down a cluttered display.
2. **Lean art for depth** Rest framed pieces casually against the back wall to effortlessly hide unsightly gaps.
3. **Drape vines over edges** Position trailing plants near the center or ends to soften rigid wooden lines.
4. **Mix opposing textures** Place polished brass or smooth glass directly next to raw, unglazed terracotta pots.

### *The Squint Test*

*Step back and squint until shelves blur to easily spot heavy voids, awkwardly empty corners, or clashing colors.*

## Select Background Art

Find your row: **Vertical shelf height**

| Vertical shelf height | Your pick | Why |
|---|---|---|
| 12 inches | 8x10 in, vertical | Fills the background layer |
| 14 inches | 11x14 in, horizontal | Feels intentional, not minimized |
| 16 inches | 12x16 in, vertical | Anchors the arrangement |

## Shop Your Home Inventory

- [ ] Heavy storage baskets for bottom anchor
- [ ] Dense ceramic bowls to ground vases
- [ ] Contrasting frames to tuck in foreground
- [ ] Heartleaf philodendrons or golden pothos
- [ ] Stone or wooden trays for collections
- [ ] Hidden acrylic blocks or small boxes

## Styling Notes

Enjoy rediscovering your favorite pieces and giving them a beautiful new spotlight!