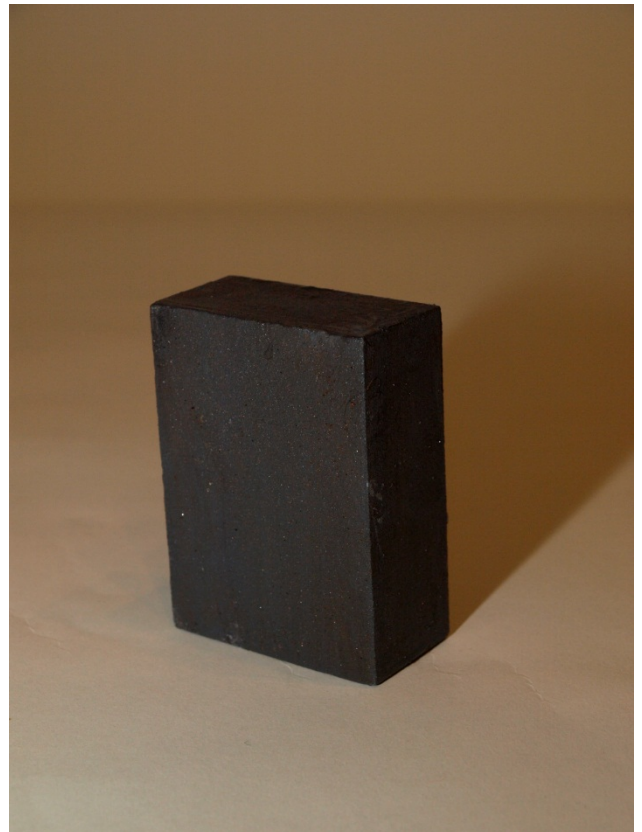Steel Block

This steel block represents the surface I would like to create with my piece. The metallic sheen as well as the sharp corners are what I want to emulate with my work because they are what make the block look like processed steel. It is a simple form, but one that calls to mind mass and power.

Painted Machinable Foam

This draft comes very close to mimicking the steel block. It has the sharp corners and the color to match the steel. In addition, it also has a rough surface with rust and grit added to the paint. However, it does not have the same metallic finish to it, making it seem more like a stone or some unknown material.

Painted Blue Foam

This was an interesting draft that explored new paths of my original idea. While most of my drafts tried to emulate the steel block, the fact that the blue foam was cracked off a larger piece gave me a rough surface that I studied and tried to give a rocky finish to. This seemed to look reasonable, but was still not what I was looking for. The lack of 90 degree angles make this piece seem more natural as well which I did not necessarily want for my final piece.

Glued Painted Blue Foam

For this draft, I sanded the faces down such that the edges made 90 degree angles to make it look more like the machinable foam draft. This draft was mainly a test to see how the glue held the foam together and how it looked painted. I decided to minimize the appearance of the glue I would make the final body a mitered box so that the glue would only be visible at the edges.

Graphite Coated Painted Foam

The techniques I used for this draft are what I decided to use on the final draft. I painted the foam black and then coated it with graphite powder. I actually did a draft where I painted one block the same color as the previous foam drafts and one just black but the graphite powder covered all the paint so it didn't make a difference. The powder really captured the metallic shine of the steel block and makes the piece much stronger as a whole.