

Visual Thinking Strategies

FACILITATOR GUIDE

VTS is an inquiry-based teaching method that improves a student's ability to describe, analyze, and interpret imagery and information through observing and discussing visual art. As the facilitator of a VTS conversation, your role is to make connections between responses. If possible, don't provide information, as the goal of VTS is to develop looking and reasoning skills, not to learn facts.

1

Open the discussion;

"What's going on here?"

2

Encourage students to backup their comments with evidence;

"What do you see that makes you say that?"

3

Invite differing opinions;

"What more can we find?"

TIPS TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

After asking, "What's going on here?"...

summarize student responses using conditional language ("Sara thinks this could be...").

This keeps the conversation open to different interpretations by other students.

By asking, "What do you see that makes you say that?"...

you're encouraging students to back up their statements with evidence of things they see in the work of art.

When you ask, "What more can we find?"...

you continue the conversation, invite differing opinions, and lead the conversation to compromise and empathy.

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TIPS FOR SELECTING ARTWORKS

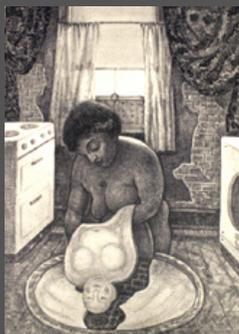
Choose a work of art from the GVSU Online Collection or use an artwork in-person on campus. We've also created two VTS PPT activities for your use, download them at [GVSU.EDU/ARTGALLERY](https://www.gvsu.edu/artgallery).

Oh That We Could Shed Our Skin And Begin Again
Beverly Adams
2018.10.1

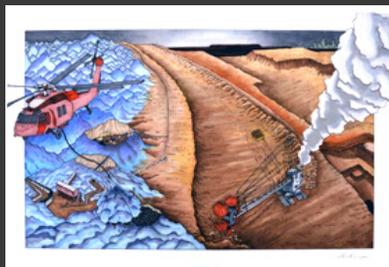
Choose a non-abstract work of art with easily identifiable objects.

Choose a scene of moderate complexity; if it's too simple the conversation will be over quickly, if it's too complex students may feel overwhelmed.

Consider your student's cultural backgrounds and ability level, choose an image with which everyone will be able to engage.



Untitled (Mirror Pool)
Seymour Rosofsky
Lithograph
2007.659.1



Coal Fields
Sean Hamilton
Pen and marker
2016.48.2



*Post Apocalyptic
Airstream*
Matthew Schenk
Oil on panel
2012.83.1

TRY THESE ARTWORKS

(click an image to enlarge)



Recollection
Dellas Henke
Engraving
2015.89.3



The Novelist
Nicole Chiarvalli
Digital inkjet print
2015.34.1



Potter's Lesson
Lori McElrath-Eslick
Watercolor on board
2002.447.1a



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Browse the Online Art Collection

More Than A Pea
Eleanor Lubbers
2015.17.1

By Topic

(to find artworks related to
your field)

By Special
Collection

Download a
GVSU Art Gallery_
VTS PPT

**If you use VTS in your class,
please tell us about it!**

For assistance, contact:

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