Visualize

An innovative training concept for strengthening

the tolerance and soft skills of young people

IO2 Development of the training paths
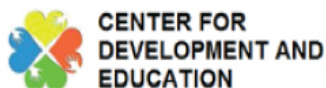
+ testing phase

TRY IT YOURSELF

Author:

P2: Institut für Visuelle Bildung

The Institute for Visual Literacy was founded by Angelika Jung, an Austrian Art Historian, in December 2015 to train professionals. The Institute for Visual Literacy offers professional training to teachers, trainers, instructors or training supervisors in the field of visual literacy to foster social development as well as improve academic achievement.

Contributions:

P1: Christliches Jugendorfwerk Deutschland e.V., CJD Verbund NRW/Süd Rheinland
P3. Fundación INTRAS
P4: Center for development and education
P5: Best Cybernetics

What is Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)?[1]

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- ➢ VTS is a teaching method that uses images to foster critical thinking skills, communication skills, social skills and visual literacy. Growth is stimulated by responding to a set of questions while looking at a work of art in a group environment.

- ➢ VTS transforms the way people think. It is about looking and bringing evidence to ones viewpoint, realizing its origin. Engaged by contributing observations and ideas, participants become aware that two or more people may observe the same image but come away with completely different interpretations. As a result viewers gain tolerance and understanding for their fellow human beings appreciating varying points of view, learning that this is not about right or wrong.

- ➢ VTS was developed and refined over the past 30+ years by American cognitive psychologist Abigail Housen and former Director of Education at the Museum of Modern Art in New York Philip Yenawine. The program is based on Housen's theory of aesthetic development.

Be aware: *The success of implementing VISUALIZE depends on the facilitators ability to conduct Visual Thinking Strategies correctly. Therefore a VTS Basis Workshop is recommended before starting the program, see **additional resources** for further information.*

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[1] Cooperation, connection and communication is the hallmark of the Visual Thinking Strategies as developed by Abigail Housen and Philip Yenawine, cofounders of Visual Understanding in Education. Their pioneering work has inspired the development of the *Institut für Visuelle Bildung* and some parts of worksheets or other materials may include language and information that is courtesy of VTS New York

VTS ELEMENTS

- ✓ **Image** selected for the audience
- ✓ **Peer group discussions**
- ✓ **Facilitator**
- ✓ **3 Questions**

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say that?

What more can we find?

Basic Principles for Image Selection

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Before starting a VTS discussion it is important to consider the basic principles for image selection:

1. The image must correspond to the development of the viewer.
2. The viewer needs a known entry point.
3. The topic should interest the viewer.
4. The picture should tell a story that can be interpreted differently.
5. The sequence of images should be challenging.

See suggested Images under IMAGE POOL

VTS Sample Lesson[2]

Preparation

- View the art work you have chosen for your 1st VTS discussion
- Memorize the three key questions
- Is your equipment ready, the room dark and the seating arranged?
- Think about how to introduce VTS to your audience?

Discussion

➢ **BEGINNING**

Introduce VTS to your audience. Tell the group that this lesson is about viewing images together. It is all about their viewpoints, their observations, and their ideas. Take the participants' fear by telling them that there is no right or wrong answer. All what counts is their viewpoints.

➢ **PROJECT THE SLIDE**
Ask students/patients to examine it silently.

➢ **QUESTIONING**.
Begin with:
> **What's going on in this picture?**

When an interpretation is given, ask:
> **What do you see that makes you say that?**

Throughout the discussion, ask:
> **What more can we find?**

➢ **RESPONDING**

Point precisely to what participants describe.

Be supportive as you listen.

Paraphrase each comment / Stay neutral and use conditional language

Link related statements

Whenever it is needed use: "What do you see that makes you say that?"

➢ **CONCLUDING THE CLASS**
Compliment the students/patients on their discussion (do not summarize the discussion).

VTS in your Country

For more information on the origin of VTS please visit: http://vtshome.org

In order to replicate the Visualize project with your target group it is recommended to receive a training on the technique of VTS beforehand.

If you wish to receive this kind of training, please inquire with Angelika Jung of the Institut für Visuelle Bildung, Austria to receive possible contact details of a VTS expert in your country.

Regarding trainings in Germany or Austria, Angelika Jung can facilitate them not only in German but also in English. With this project, she gained the experience necessary to conduct a training with non-native speakers working with different target groups.