

ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

Visual Thinking Strategies- Look! Think! Write! Post-Visit Lesson Plan

Grade Level: Pre K-Adult

New York State Learning Standards: ELA 1-4; Arts 1-4

Pennsylvania Learning Standards: A&H 9.2, 9.4; RWSL 1.4, 1.5, 1.6

Objectives: Students will learn to interpret and explain works of art through narrative writing.

Materials:

- One photocopy or transparency of an artwork
- Pencils
- Papers

Procedure:

Part 1: Examine

Select a photograph of an artwork that you would like your students to examine. Try to select a piece with people in it, as it is more likely to have a narrative. Also, try to choose a work that depicts a certain time period or other phenomenon you have been studying in class (for example, portraits of a pharaoh if you are studying ancient Egypt). If you have the ability, photocopy the work onto a transparency, as this makes group or shared viewing easier. After all students have viewed the artwork, ask them to write down a few describing words or phrases for the piece.

Part 2: Interpret

Using visual thinking strategies, discuss the work of art as a group. See part 2 of the Pre-visit lesson plan for details on guided discussion techniques.

Part 3: Group Write

Place students into small groups of three or four. Have each student share his/her describing words or phrases with their group. Ask each group to work together to create a short story or narrative to explain or describe what is going on in the work. Preliterate students may draw pictures instead.

Conclusion: After all groups have finished writing, have students share their stories with the class.

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