

VTS

Visual Thinking Strategies

VTS is a student-centered, research-based curriculum that uses art to foster students' capacities to observe, think, listen, and communicate.

VTS asks teachers to facilitate discussions of Developmentally-appropriate visual art by paraphrasing and linking student responses to three simple, open-ended questions.

VTS asks students to

- Look carefully at works of art
- Talk about what they observe
- Back up their ideas with evidence
- Listen to and consider the views of others
- Discuss many possible interpretations



VTS asks classroom teachers to facilitate ten lessons a year, each lasting under an hour, so VTS fits into even the busiest schedule. Art images are provided in poster form for Grades K-2, and CD-ROM or for Grades 3-8. Curriculum manuals provide lesson plans and ideas for extending VTS. For Grades 4-8 the final lesson of each year takes place in a local art museum.

VTS supports writing development and has proven to raise test scores in reading and math. VTS students develop a sense of confidence in their ability to comprehend complexity, to take risks, to learn. VTS teaches students to value their ideas and listen to and build on those of others. VTS brings the rich world of art into the lives of all young people. VTS gives teachers a powerful tool for reaching every student and is easily applied in other lessons and contexts.

Teachers learn VTS in an initial workshop and start teaching immediately. Regular debriefing sessions are interspersed between lessons to strengthen teaching practice. In most cases, two or three teachers from each school (in-house VTS mentors who have received special instruction) help conduct the initial workshop and ongoing training with the aid of VTS experts. This model provides consistent expertise within the school, supports real growth and addresses inevitabilities such as teacher turnover.

For more information visit our promotional (www.visualthinkingstrategies.org) and organizational (www.vue.org) websites or contact us at info@vue.org or 212-253-9007.

