

# VISUAL THINKING STRATEGIES

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Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is a facilitation method that fosters collaborative, inclusive dialogue for all visitors and students.

VTS is an arts and education NonProfit that teaches schools and institutional facilities to create more meaning in learning and teach critical thinking.

Abigail Housen and Philip Yenawine are the founders of this technique. Both have impressive backgrounds in Art Education and Museum Studies in the US.

They have created this Non Profit to offer workshops for Teachers and Docents to learn and practice these facilitation skills.

Why should I learn this technique? What problems do Docents struggle with? Let's explore!

A common problem for all Teachers and Docents is that every group has various levels of knowledge, engagement and confidence.

VTS is simple and direct. It invites visitors to express themselves without any judgment on the part of the facilitator. Non-judgement from the facilitator allows all learning styles to emerge.

**The Visual Thinking Strategies consist of Three Questions:**

**-What's going on in this Picture ( sculpture, artifact, object)?**

**-What makes you say that?**

**-What else can we find?**

The facilitators job is to paraphrase each visitors response to all questions and make connections between all visitors responses.

- Point and be physically responsive during answers.

-Paraphrase each visitors response

-Remain open and accepting of each new comment.

It is important that the facilitator paraphrases without judgement and physically points out visitors remarks to act as an additional visual tool in the discussion.

The result of VTS leaves each visitor feeling relaxed and validated while exercising their own critical thinking skills. VTS takes practice, but I found the rewards are enormous for visitors and colleagues alike!

To see this strategy in action, please look up on YouTube “Visual Thinking Strategies: Terra Foundation for American Art” to see Founder Philip Yenawine in action!!

To provide examples of what the website offers, please look up [VTSHome.org](http://VTSHome.org).