

Learning to Look: Visual Thinking Strategies to Support Medical Education Goals

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Museum-based Medical Education



- Observation/interpretation
- Perspective-taking/empathy
- Medical thinking/cognitive biases
- Tolerating ambiguity/uncertainty
- Reflective practice
- Team-building
- Communication/relational skills
- Professional identity formation
- Well-being and Renewal



The VTS Questions

Question 1: What's going on in this image?

Question 2: What do you see that makes you say that?

Question 3: What more can we find?

Methods and Strategies

- Silent Looking
- Pointing
- Paraphrasing
- Remaining Neutral
- Conditional Language
- Linking
- Closing
- **Debrief**

VTS as “priming” for med ed exploration

- Example: VTS with Oath of Horatii as priming for writing a new intern oath
- Example: Rembrandt’s Anatomy Lesson as priming to discuss assumptions about teaching and learning





The Power of Third Things: approaching *truth on the slant*

*We achieve indirection by exploring
...metaphorically, via a poem, a
story, a piece of music, or a work of
art.*

*Mediated by a third thing, truth can
emerge from, and return to, our
awareness at whatever pace and
depth we are able to handle.*



--Palmer, Parker J. *A Hidden Wholeness:
The Journey Toward an Undivided Life.*
San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2004



Learning to Look

Question & Answer

