

Visual Thinking Strategies supports many of the current Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements. These are a selection of standards from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website <http://www.k12.wa.us/>

Visual Arts	VTS
<p>1.1 Understand arts concepts and vocabulary.</p> <p>1.3 Understand and apply arts styles from various artists, cultures, and times.</p> <p>2.3 Apply a responding process to an arts presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage actively and purposefully. • Describe what is seen and/or heard. • Analyze how the elements are arranged and organized. • Interpret based on descriptive properties. • Evaluate using supportive evidence and criteria. <p>3.1 Use the arts to express and present ideas and feelings.</p> <p>4.2 Demonstrates and analyzes the connections between the arts and other content areas.</p> <p>4.4 Understands that the arts shape and reflect culture and history.</p>	<p>While VTS does not introduce formal terms until students express concepts, students become sensitized to, and pick up on visual vocabulary like colors, moods, styles, and materials.</p> <p>Images are selected from a wide range of periods, cultures, media, styles and techniques. Students build a rich reservoir of visual images.</p> <p>Discussions are initiated by questions, which provoke thoughtful responses to images and the involvement of all students, and which support the appropriate use of strategies to construct meaning from images. More probing questions in subsequent years help older students further develop their analytical, contextual, and critical thinking about art.</p> <p>Students find language to express complicated ideas and emotions, aided by supportive teachers.</p> <p>Aesthetic and critical thinking skills supported by VTS have been proven to transfer to non-art objects and other subject areas.</p> <p>Images are selected from a wide range of periods and cultures. Students mine art for stories about people, places, eras, activities and relationships, exploring a range of social and political themes.</p>

Communication	VTS
<p>1. The students use listening and observation skills and strategies to gain understanding.</p> <p>2. The student uses communication skills and strategies to interact/work effectively with others.</p> <p>3. The student uses communication skills and strategies to present ideas and one's self in a variety of situations.</p>	<p>Encourages each student to respond verbally to a wide range of works of art, leading to active and extended involvement.</p> <p>Process supports careful listening and the incorporation of the point of view of others</p> <p>Open-ended discussions using clearly defined strategies support the development of a wide range of communication skills.</p>
Reading	VTS
<p>2.3 Expand comprehension by analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing information and ideas in literary and informational text.</p> <p>2.4 Think critically and analyze author's use of language, style purpose, and perspective in informational text.</p>	<p>Teaches thinking through discussion of art: develops observation and analytical skills and the ability to explain or clarify individual responses.</p> <p>Questions ask students to respond, interpret, focus, and to become fact-based and logical when they express or debate a position.</p>
Writing	VTS
<p>2. The student writes in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes.</p> <p>3. The student writes clearly and effectively.</p>	<p>Provides opportunities to use writing as another way of responding to art.</p> <p>Discussions give students confidence with words. Ease with oral language helps them become effective writers. Evidentiary reasoning requires organization of observations, ideas and information.</p>
Mathematics	VTS
<p>2.1 Investigate situations by searching for patterns and exploring a variety of approaches.</p> <p>3.3 Draw conclusions and verify results; support mathematical arguments, justify results and check for reasonableness of solution.</p>	<p>VTS uses questions that challenge students to observe and think deeply. They develop habits such as brainstorming and considering many possibilities and backing up opinions with evidence.</p> <p>By responding to the open-ended questions of VTS, students articulate their interpretations and explain their reasoning.</p>

