

Using the Art Gallery to teach Visual Verbal Presentations

A suggested activity

(David Larsen, Western Springs College)

1. 5 – 10 minutes In groups of three, list as many ideas and themes from texts you have taught in class this year, or that you recall students using productively in their own visual verbal presentations.

For example: productive themes and ideas for sequential visual verbal presentations might involve specific psychological changes in characters, or changes in relationships (with other characters, with environments, with belief systems or ideologies)

Classroom Texts: Ideas and Themes

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2. GALLERY ACTIVITY (40 – 45 minutes)

Each group now needs to discover an artwork that has *thematic connections with an idea or theme listed above*.

Once the group has chosen their artwork, they need to describe the use of at least two of the following techniques and develop an analysis of how the techniques are used to develop this “connecting” idea or theme. They then can sketch out some ways these techniques could be used in a visual verbal presentation based on the text taught in class (**20 – 25 minutes**). We will then finish with a tour of the gallery (**20 minutes**), where each group presents their analysis, and “draft” visual verbal presentations, to the full group.

Use the following questions and the boxes on the next two pages to help develop this analysis....

6 Key Techniques

1. Sequencing

- *How were proportion, imagery, layout, font and colour altered to develop ideas over a series or sequence of images?*
- *In what sequence were images revealed in the visual text? Can you identify how the artist has encouraged the viewer’s eyes to move across the artwork, in a way that sequentially “reveals” an idea or theme?*

2. Layout and composition

- *Again, how is the eye encouraged to “read” the images ie. in what order? Does the placement of visual elements encourage a sequenced reading? Are visual or verbal linking devices used?*
- *How was layout (where things were positioned, the different proximity of visual elements in the artwork) used to encourage, or not encourage, the creation of associations between different images in the artwork (Think of editing techniques in a film studied this year)? How does this reveal themes and ideas?*
- *Have deliberate linkages and relationships been created between foreground, midground, background? If so, how do these decisions relate to the themes and ideas of the artwork?*

3. Proportion

- *Has the artist made use of non-realistic proportions to develop or emphasis an idea?*
- *Has the juxtaposition of distorted or exaggerated proportions of objects been used to develop an idea?*

4. Colour

- *Are the symbolic or emotional values of colours deliberately used to develop an idea or theme?*
- *Have contrasts between colours been used to develop an idea or theme?*

5. Imagery/Symbolism

- *How have the images been deliberately chosen to develop an idea or theme?*
- *How have contrasts and linkages between images been used to develop an idea or theme?*
- *How have images been manipulated to develop an idea or theme?*

6. Font

- *How has the choice of font type been used to develop an idea or theme?*
- *How have changes in font, or the juxtaposition of fonts, been used to develop an idea or theme?*

- *What ways do the chosen fonts compliment or contrast with the imagery? How is this used to integration with imagery?*

CHOSEN ARTWORK

Title

Artist

COMMON THEME OR IDEA

Theme or Idea

In common with this classroom text:

TECHNIQUE #1

Example


How used to develop theme or idea? (*See orienting questions above*)

TECHNIQUE #2

Example

How used to develop theme or idea? (*See orienting questions above*)

USE THIS BOX TO NOTE DOWN ANY OTHER TECHNICAL EXAMPLES AND HOW THEY ARE USED TO DEVELOP A THEME OR IDEA IN THE ARTWORK *Write overleaf if you run out of space...*



IF YOUR GROUP HAS TIME, SKETCH OUT SOME WAYS IN WHICH THE TECHNIQUES USED TO DEVELOP AN IDEA OR THEME IN THE ARTWORK MIGHT BE USED IN AN ORIGINAL VISUAL VERBAL PRESENTATION BASED ON THE TEXT STUDIED IN CLASS....