

VISUAL THINKING MINI-PORTFOLIO

(Visual Arts EALR 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

What is Visual Thinking?

Visual thinking is a unique and useful way to perceive the world.

Many daily activities require that you engage visual thinking.

To draw well, you must be able to engage and concentrate in visual thinking.

Overview

Through the following assignments, you will investigate various ways of thinking that artists use.

- Grid Drawing—See Relationships and Focus on Details
- Upside Down Drawing—Focus on Relationships
- Negative Space—Focus on Shape
- Blind Studies—Focus on Contours and Details
- Dot Energy Fields—Focus on Design
- DADA Poems—Use intuition instead of reason

Assignment

Grid It

One way to engage visual thinking is to shut down the verbal mode of thinking by overwhelming it.

In the Grid assignment, the picture has been made unintelligible by breaking it into smaller pieces.

The grid also aids visual thinking by giving it an easy way to make comparisons. Get a copy of the grid and a picture piece packet. More directions are on the grid.

Think Like Leonardo

Visual thinking is one of many ways a person processes information.

Each person processes information in more than one way. Sometimes a person thinks verbally, other times spatially. Research indicates that different parts of the brain process information in different ways.

In the presentation we will compare two of the most common. I refer to them as Visual Thinking and Verbal Thinking. They go by other names as well.

Assignment

Head over Heels

When you turn a picture upside-down, it makes it difficult for the verbal mode of thinking to make sense of the picture.

That clears the way for the visual mode to start looking for relationships and qualities.

If you find it difficult to stay focused, try covering the part you have not drawn yet with a piece of paper. Some people use a ruler to see relationships more easily.

Tongue Tied: Overcoming Verbal Thinking

Overwhelming the verbal mode of thinking is one way to focus only on visual stimuli.

With visual thinking very few words are used. If a word is used it usually describes a relationship or the quality of an element.

Visual thinking phrases might sound something like this:

Around, even with, equal,
over, down, curving, short,
hard edge, big shape, cool
color, more red, darker, softer,
smoother

Visual Language Assignment

Dot Energy Field

Artists Speak the Language of Vision
Artists speak the Language of Vision.

ELEMENTS of design are their words.

Hue PRINCIPLES of design are their grammar.

Value Rhythm
Intensity Unity
Texture Balance
Point Dominance
Line Contrast
Plane (Shape or Form)

Use the language of vision to create a Dot Energy Field.

Assignment

Envision Negative Space

All realistic drawings are merely illusions. Magritte pointed out that people often confuse these illusions with reality.

Using only the negative space of an object, you will create the illusion that it exists on a piece of paper.

Birth of DADA

In the presentation today we will explore the following questions.

Who started DADA?

What motivated them?

What was the point of DADA?

Assignment

Forsake Reason: Illustrated DADA Poem

Use a DADA and Surreal technique to generate ideas.

- ❑ Draw a border for your illustration
- ❑ Around the outside of the border write the poem
 - Write the first phrase that comes to mind
 - Take the last word of that phrase and write the first phrase that begins with that word
 - Continue using the last word of each phrase to begin the next phrase
 - Stop when you fill the space
- ❑ Create an Illustration inspired by the original intuitive poem

Assignment

Reflections on Visual Thinking

Use the following questions to help you reflect on the techniques you learned in the Visual Thinking Portfolio.

- ❑ When you lay your visual thinking assignments side by side, which look the most successful?
- ❑ Which method engaged visual thinking in the best way for you?
- ❑ Describe what you did to engage visual thinking.
- ❑ How would you compare visual thinking with verbal thinking?
- ❑ How difficult was it for you to engage in visual thinking?