



Brooks Museum

Preparing your students to look at art

Have you ever taken your students to a museum and seen them walk quickly through a gallery, as if they haven't really noticed anything about the artwork at all? This often happens when students have never been shown *how* to look at art.

Exploring Project Zero's "See, Think, Wonder" routine can help prepare your students for their time at the Brooks. Practicing this three-step strategy in the classroom as a group will equip your students with the tools they need to have beneficial museum experiences for the rest of their lives. In some cases, you may want students to try out this routine individually on paper before sharing with the class.

1. Prompt students to find a work of art that catches their attention.
2. Students should take at least one minute to see the work of art they've chosen. They are examining the work for things that they may not have noticed at first sight. Encourage students to observe the work as if they are looking for clues to solve a mystery.
3. After closely examining the artwork, students record what they "think" might be going on in the image/object based on the details they've observed.
4. Finally, students will record something they "wonder" about the artwork now that they have made observations and processed their thoughts. This type of inquiry supports 21st century skills and helps students to relate what they see to classroom concepts that they're already familiar with. Even better, it can spark their interest in learning more about something new!

To watch a teacher practice "See, Think, Wonder" in a museum setting, visit:

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/how-students-get-most-from-museum-visit-getty>

For more information on Project Zero and "See, Think, Wonder", visit:

http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03c_Core_routines/SeeThinkWonder/SeeThinkWonder_Routine.html

For other prompts to help students engage with art at the museum, visit:

<http://www.incredibleart.org/files/crit.htm>