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Visual Literacy Lesson Plan: Color Photography

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Visual Literacy Lesson Plan: Color Photography

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Introduction

This session focuses on building subject knowledge in photography and finding background information on an artist. The lesson begins with students closely examining a photograph, following the [Visual Thinking Strategies model \(https://vtshome.org/\)](https://vtshome.org/). Following the exercise, students divide into groups and select a monograph on a photographer. As a group, they research the photographer using the book and other library resources (subscription databases) and open web resources (artist's website, museum websites). The session ends with student groups giving 2-5 minute presentations on a photographer.

Keywords

Visual literacy, library instruction, research, visual thinking strategies, library, photography, fine art

Learning outcomes

Students will incorporate photographic terminology into their oral and written analysis of a photograph

Students will be able to use print and online resources to create a 2-5 minute presentation on a photographer

Association of College and Research Library Framework	LaGuardia Core Competencies
Searching as Strategic Exploration	Integrative Learning
Scholarship as a Conversation	Global Learning

Lesson Plan

Analyze a photograph (10 min)

Use the [Visual Thinking Strategies model \(https://vtshome.org/\)](https://vtshome.org/)

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can you find?

Introduction to Researching an artist (5 min)

Use the [LaGuardia Library's website \(https://library.laguardia.edu/\)](https://library.laguardia.edu/)

Introduce students to the Library's website, briefly showing them how to use OneSearch to find information on artists and how to access the Art History Research Guide Libguide. Encourage students to use multiple databases and websites to find information on their artist.

Suggested Resources

[LaGuardia Library's OneSearch \(https://library.laguardia.edu/\)](https://library.laguardia.edu/)

[LaGuardia Art History Research Guide \(http://guides.laguardia.edu/arthistory\)](http://guides.laguardia.edu/arthistory)

[Metropolitan Museum's Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History \(https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/\)](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/)

Find background info on an artist and prepare a short presentation (20 min)

Working in groups (3-5 students), using Library resources and websites, students use the following prompts for their presentations:

- Where is the artist from?
- When were they active?
- Which style or format do they work in?

Which global issues do you think affected them and are present in their work?

Global issues can be cultural/ natural/ social/ political/ economic

Pick one picture by the artist. Analyze the picture by answering the following questions. Be sure to use photography vocabulary words when describing the image: saturation; hue; frame; perspective; context; narrative; abstract; representational; expressive; intention; conceptual

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?

What do you think is the intention of the artist? What are they trying to communicate?

Group presentations (20 min)

Students are encouraged but not required to create a short slide show for their presentations. At minimum, they should find a high quality digital image to show when analyzing a picture.

Suggested Image Resources (open access)

[Wikimedia Commons \(https://commons.wikimedia.org\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org)

[Digital Public Library of America \(https://dp.la/\)](https://dp.la/)

[Flickr Commons \(https://www.flickr.com/commons\)](https://www.flickr.com/commons)

[Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Online Catalog \(http://www.loc.gov/pictures/\)](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/)