

Analyzing Visual Texts Using OPTIC

Paying attention to the details is a habit that is a necessary part of effective analysis. As you analyze visual texts, including paintings, photographs, advertisements, maps, charts or graphs, the **OPTIC** strategy can help you construct meaning. **OPTIC** stands for **Overview, Parts, Title, Interrelationship, and Conclusion. As you examine a visual text, respond to each element:**

O- Write a brief **overview** of the image: in one complete sentence, what is this image about?

P- Key in on all of the **parts** by noting any details that seem important. This can be anything: color, figures, textures, scenery, groupings, shadings, patterns, numbers, etc.

T- Use the **title** to clarify the subject of the image. Consider both literal and metaphoric meanings. What does the title suggest?

I- Specify the **interrelationships** in the image. In other words, how the parts are related, both to one another and the image as a whole. Consider how the parts come together to create a mood or convey an idea or argument.

C- Write a **conclusion paragraph** about the image as a whole: think about what the artist, photographer, creator, or designer might be trying to capture and convey, and what ideas, arguments, or implications this image presents.

Image Title:

O -

P -

T -

I -

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