

VIEWFINDERS Chaperone Information and Responsibilities

WHAT IS VTS?

Visual Thinking Strategies (or VTS) is a facilitated discussion technique that allows students the opportunity to carefully look at and talk about artwork. A docent asks open-ended questions that encourage participants to provide visual evidence for their comments. Instead of providing information and facts about the artwork, the facilitator paraphrases student comments and asks them to find more in the image. Because students talk about what interests *them* the most, VTS creates an art-viewing experience that helps them find deeper meanings and stronger connections.

FIELD TRIP OVERVIEW

VIEWFINDERS visits are 90 minutes long and comprised of 3 sections:

1. 30 minute docent-led VTS tour in the galleries
2. 30 minute Self-Guided Gallery Exploration (led by chaperones with printed guides)
3. 30 minutes Hands-on Art Activity

IMA Staff and docents will:

- Greet your group upon arrival at the museum
- Assist you in finding each location for all three field trip components
- Lead the VTS discussions in our galleries
- Distribute and collect materials for your Self-Guided Gallery Exploration activity
- Lead the Hands-on Art Activity in one of our art studios

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

- At least one chaperone is required for every group of 10 students
- Please allow only students to participate in the docent-led VTS discussions
- Chaperones are responsible for keeping their group together, on schedule, and helping to lead students during their Self-Guided Gallery Exploration
- Chaperones will have a map and “chaperone’s edition” of the Gallery Guide to help them with their group’s exploration of the galleries
- Encourage students to take their time in the galleries and to talk about the artwork they see. Don’t be afraid to engage them in conversation or ask them questions!
- IMA docents and staff will be available for assistance during the visit
- Chaperones should be aware of general IMA gallery rules:
 - Only pencils may be used in the galleries
 - Please do not touch or lean against the works of art; this includes the pedestals that objects are sitting on
 - Use the writing boards provided to write answers on the guides—not the walls or pedestals
 - Students can sit on the floor
 - Chaperones should not allow students to play on the escalators
 - No flash photography in any gallery, and no photography permitted in special exhibitions or on Gallery Level 3 (Contemporary Art).