

Setting up your own session

What do you need beside a grade appropriate image?

1. First off, find time! The first session will take more time than most, because you may be giving your students an introduction to what you want to do and what VTS is. Can you find 20-30 minutes in your day, perhaps once a week? Time will certainly depend on your classroom's grade level. We find that the more familiar your classroom becomes with VTS, the longer the sessions tend to become. Research has shown that 10 sessions in a school year can greatly increase art literacy and critical thinking skills in your classroom.

2. A grade appropriate image. Images that are heavy in narrative are best. Look also for images that the narrative and subject matter are things that your students can relate to, such as family situations for younger students and perhaps more complex social situations or global environments for older grades. When you are choosing an image for your classroom, it will be helpful for you to have done some investigation of the work beforehand although it is not necessary. I would suggest knowing the art work's history starting out though, as it will be a confidence builder for you as you will have studied the work on your own and also noted if the history or provenance of the work is appropriate for your classroom. Further discussion on finding appropriate images for your student's grade will be discussed in a future learning module.

3. The artwork can be projected onto a screen from your computer or can be a print on an easel. It is easier to explore a works of art on a large screen but a laminated image, in true size if possible, allows for study at any time after the session.

4. A clock or a timer so you won't have to worry about the time and can just focus on the session.

5. A poster size list of the 3 VTS questions can be quite helpful not only during the session but as VTS becomes part of your curriculum, may students will refer to it in their writing sessions as well.

That's it, that's what you need most; art and the time to look at it!