VISUAL THINKING STRATEGIES

Code Freeze 2020 - Observability
HI. I’M ALEX.

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VISUAL THINKING STRATEGIES
WHAT IS VTS?

A research-based methodology that improves creative thinking and collaboration skills through a carefully facilitated discussion of art.

Co-founded 40+ years ago by Abigail Housen & Philip Yenawine, originally for use in museums and schools.

Its origins are cognitive psychology (how people think) and museum pedagogy (how people look at art).
WHAT SKILLS CAN VTS HELP DEVELOP?

- Observing
- Brainstorming
- Cultivating a POV
- Speculating
- Reasoning with Evidence
- Revision & Elaboration
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
WHY DOES VTS WORK?

VTS is **accessible** - no background in art is needed

VTS **encourages participation from everyone** - No right or wrong answers, all viewpoints are recognized

VTS develops **observational skills and reasoning** - the discussion is a **discovery process**

VTS enhances **team dynamics and collaboration**

VTS enhances **complex problem solving** - the active construction of meaning
WHY ART?

“Art is intentionally ambiguous, open to a variety of valid interpretations. Feelings are embedded in art along with information, triggering a full range of expression from those who look at it thoughtfully. Layers of meaning, symbols, and metaphor encourage probing and reflecting.”

http://www.vtshome.org/
WHY ART?

Accessibility & Diversity
Comfort with Ambiguity
Openness to the Unfamiliar
HOW HAS VTS BEEN USED OUTSIDE OF MUSEUMS?
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

FACILITATING VTS SESSIONS IN YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENT
IMAGE SELECTION

Accessibility & Captivation
Diversity
Existence of a Narrative
Ambiguity
Sequencing & Themes
THE QUESTIONS

What’s going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say that?

What more can we find?
THE PROCESS

- Acknowledge all responses
- Point and be physically expressive
- Paraphrase each person's response
- Remain open and accepting
- Link thoughts
VTS & YOUR WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideation</th>
<th>Team Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pair/Mob Programming</td>
<td>Design Critiques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agile Retrospectives</td>
<td>Code Reviews</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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THANK YOU
CODE FREEZE!

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