

O.P.T.I.C.

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. As you examine a visual text, respond to each element:

Overview

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

Parts

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.

Title / Text

Use the **title** to clarify the subject of the image. Consider both literal and metaphoric meanings. What does the title suggest? Is there any **text** in the image—a caption, or words in the image itself? What might this text suggest? What are the connotations?

Interrelationships

Discover the **interrelationships** in the image. How do the parts or pieces relate, both to one another and the image as a whole. Is there an evident perspective or point of view? What patterns do you see? How do the parts come together to reveal the artist's message?

Conclusion

Draw a **conclusion** about the meaning of the visual 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.