

Image: Painting of Louix XIV



Objective: to interpret in light of the target culture

Process

examine the object of study (visual analysis, close reading)

strategize: what information is needed, how to find, where to look...

find relevant information (and note/document sources correctly!!!!)

critically evaluate the information and its functionality

ask questions (how does this information apply?)

analyze the image in the light of information

investigate insights

produce new information

organize and present

Guiding Questions and Steps

1. **Close attention!!!** What are we looking at? What do we see? Why is our attention drawn to some places? What is hidden or obscured? What is the relation of the "subject" to the form? (Use questions and tips from how to do close readings **and** visual analysis. (It is useful to ask students to imagine the object transposed into another medium: mentally or physically draw or paint the text; compose a narrative that "envoices" the image.

- * What do you see? What is your attention drawn to--and why? What is in the foreground, what is "background"? What details seem hidden or obscured? How is space used? Light? Color? Lines? Shapes? Perspectives? How would you describe the composition of the work?
- * Notice the medium and technique: what do you the artist's process must have been like? How did s/he create this work?
- * How do you respond to this work? How do you think the work asks you to respond? What do you think is the intent or agenda of this object for the viewer/reader? What specific evidence from the work can you offer?
- * What is the narrative or story that this object suggests? How does it reflect and comment upon its context (aesthetically, socially, politically, linguistically?)

2. **Team or group discussion:** What kinds of information are needed to interpret this painting? Where is the best place to find some answers? Brainstorm, organize process, delegate tasks. From the group, designate a coordinator, a critic, and a consensus builder.

3. **Research time:** have students look things up, then do a peer-review of what they found before bringing it to the group to better evaluate the usefulness and credibility of sources and information.

4. **Group planning session:** gather, organize, and apply information gathered, brainstorm on meanings, gather insights, analyze the object in terms of information and insights.

5. **Interpret,** evaluate, check for discrepancies, omissions, oversights, or over-interpreting. Check newly produced information against context and perceived agenda of object. **Write a thesis.** Create a compelling and concise presentation.