About this Resource

This resource will allow you to lead your students through a close looking exercise to extend the learning following their WordShop visit to the Toledo Museum of Art.

This approach to looking at art is based on the Art of Seeing Art method created by the Toledo Museum of Art. It is worksheet-based and will help you and your students explore a work of art in the Toledo Museum of Art’s collection.

How to use this Resource:

- Print out the document for yourself.
- Read through the document carefully while looking at the work of art.
- Print the worksheet at the end of this document for your students.
- When you are ready to engage your students, project the image where all students can see it.

This exercise is meant for use in the classroom. There is no substitute for seeing the real work of art at the Toledo Museum of Art. We are open Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m.–5 p.m. Docent-led WordShop tours are available free of charge.

Visit http://www.toledomuseum.org/visit/tours/school-tours/ to schedule.

Goals:

For students to gain practice applying the Learning to Look: The Art of Seeing Art method.

Objectives:

- Students will use their close looking and description to examine a work of art.
- Students will generate questions as a means of critically thinking about a work of art.
**Materials:**  What’s Happening in This Picture? worksheets, pencils

**Length:**  20–25 minutes

**Step 1:** Display the chosen work of art. Pass out the worksheets and pencils to the students.

**Step 2:** Ask the students to spend a few minutes sketching the work of art in the top box on their graphic organizer. Remind them, sketching is a tool to aid looking, it is not important that they generate a faithful reproduction, but to use the drawing as a form of visual notetaking.

**Step 3:** Ask the students to respond to the question: “What’s happening in this picture?” in the second box on their worksheets. Remind them to be as descriptive as possible and to support their ideas with visual evidence. Encourage them to talk about the lines, shapes, colors, and textures they see as well as the objects they can identify and any story they can deduce.

**Step 4:** After you have given the students some time to make their sketches and write their description and analysis, ask the students to share their findings. Ask the student:
- What was the first thing you noticed?
- What details did you include in your drawing?
- What do you think is happening?
- What visual evidence can you find?
- What details did you find in the work of art that helped you decide this?

**Step 5:** After some discussion, ask the students to write down one question they still have about this work of art. Allow the students some time to share and discuss their questions. You might brainstorm with them ways to find answers to their questions.
What’s Happening in this Picture? Worksheet

Look, Observe, See: Draw what you see.

Describe & Analyze: What’s happening in this picture?

Interpret: What is one question you have about this picture?