Teacher Resource: Qualitative and Quantitative Observation

Sponsored by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
Qualitative and Quantitative Observation

This lesson was developed by Ms. Tammy Hutchinson, a Math and Science teacher at Garfield Elementary, as a part of a collaboration project between the Toledo Museum of Art and area educators. It is intended for 6th grade students.

Goals: To apply visual literacy strategies to aid critical thinking about an everyday object.

Objectives: Students will employ close looking.
Students will answer questions to guide interpretation of an everyday object.

Ohio's New Learning Standards: Grade 6, Science Inquiry and Application
Develop descriptions, models, explanations, and predictions.
Think critically and logically to connect evidence and explanations.

Visual Literacy Skills: Close Looking, Description

Materials: Projected image

Length: 25–30 minutes

Step 1: After introducing the topic of qualitative and quantitative observation, introduce the Elements of Art to students.

ELEMENTS OF ART

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

Step 2: Display the image of the Crommelynck Gate with Tools, by Jim Dine. Ask students which elements of art are evident in the gate (Ex. Color, lines, shape, texture, etc.). Give students five minutes for observation.

Step 3: Ask students to pick an object on the gate and write down both qualitative and quantitative observations about it. Tell students to be very specific but to do this silently. Give students about five minutes to write.

Step 4: Ask students to find a partner and read their descriptions to their partner to see if their partner can find the object. Have a few students share their writings with the class.

Step 5: Have students share the quantitative and qualitative observations aloud and compile student observations on a list.