Lesley University inFUSION Study Circles

Learning to See: Valuing Personal Responses in Collective Contexts
Kazuyo Kubo, Janet Sauer, Andre Ruesch

We invite you to discover visual learning with us this year by going off on tangents which always leads to unexpected discovery. Our study group will focus on empowering students to critically engage with visuals. During our sessions we will explore visual resources and examine issues of power through facilitated activities. Our goal is to develop students’ confidence when encountering images and respond critically to subtext and manipulations.

Learning to see for Analytic Research
Kimberly Lowe, Brandon Strathmann

In this study group we will discuss tools for training students how to ask critical questions of images and media. In our respective disciplines of history and animation, we have both noted a tendency for students to become stuck in pre-conceived, gut reactions to images. We aim to teach students how to uncover the layered messages of these images by asking appropriate critical questions and applying theoretical lenses. We will explore how a critical analysis of images enhances analytic essays and artistic productions across the disciplines.

Learning to see: Creative Work across Disciplines
E. Chris Clark and Ellen Schön

In this study group, faculty will develop tools to teach students the iterative process of making, critiquing, and re-making creative work. We will discuss techniques to strengthen student ability to describe and analyze their own work, as well as the work of others. We will investigate the use of 2D images and 3D forms as prompts and sources for student creative production. And we will learn how to facilitate more substantive revisions through visual and written documentation of the creative process. In all, the goal of this study circle will be to define a reflective process for our students that helps them establish clearer intention in their work across disciplines, from original concept to final version.

Decoding Mass Media: Deconstructing TV, Cinema and Photography in your Courses
Liv Cummins, Matthew Nash, Oscar Palacio

Do you use TV, cinema, or photography in your courses? In this study group, we’ll demonstrate visual, cultural, and media literacy strategies, and offer faculty the tools and confidence to integrate these strategies in your own courses.

Sketchbook: a tool for interactivity or engagement
Anthony Apesos, Deborah Davidson and Albert Liau

A sketchbook can be an effective means for cultivating a relationship with any subject. Studies have shown that people reap cognitive benefits by engaging a subject through writing and drawing by hand. This study group will investigate ways to integrate sketchbook practice into your courses.

Graphs, maps, and design thinking: interpreting and generating visual information.
John Kim, James O’Keefe, Heather Shaw

Visual images can be extremely effective in representing data and other information. The focus of this study group will be on developing course activities that enhance students’ abilities to interpret and generate effective visual images in various academic disciplines. We will identify and explore a range of visualization options, and how these options can be used most effectively and appropriately.