

Visual Literacy: Learning Content + Skills w/ Pictures

Sun 5-6:30 (2448)

Mark Newman +
Donna Ogle

- ▶ Textbook publishers are shifting to more visuals.
 - ▶ Kids still need to learn to read these.
- ▶ Library of Congress Web site (<http://www.loc.gov>)
 - ▶ lots of resources for teachers
- ▶ Use a photo → What do you see^{1st}? How does this change the "message" you get?
 - Activity → Read the photo add a caption, record your steps
- ▶ Photos are subjective and they do not tell a complete story — this spurs inquiry
 - ▶ often follow conventions (e.g. "Rule of thirds") → provides a strategy for reading them.
 - ▶ perspective of tech, subjects, medium, creator + viewer provide in-depth study
 - ▶ need to uncover student's understanding of how to use visuals

(2448, continued)

- Maps — provide students with a short list of questions to focus on map 1st + text 2nd
 - then ask students to draw arrows between the text and the visuals
 - ask students to reflect on where they start (where do their eyes go)
- Making inferences from photos → look for clues in photo... inference in form of a poem
- Can also give students a text passage + then develop the visual