



Picture Prompt

Overview

Picture Prompt, a method of dual coding, asks students to explain an image or set of images. By using a combination of verbal, written, and visual modes, we encode information in more than one way, increasing the likelihood that important information is remembered later.

One way to incorporate dual coding is to visually represent material by using or creating images such as infographics, timelines or cartoon strips and asking students to respond to these images. The provided visuals should be meaningful and help direct attention to important information.

Picture Prompts are ideal for: promoting information literacy, encouraging dual coding of information, and providing low-stakes writing assignments.

Picture Prompt meets the following [WSU Learning Goals](#): critical and creative thinking, information literacy, diversity, communication, and depth, breadth, and integration of learning.

Group size: 1-3 | **Active Time:** 10 mins | **Est. Grading Effort:** Low

Active time is an estimate and may vary depending on your class.

Implementation

Suggested Tech Tools: Blackboard Discussion Board, Padlet, VoiceThread

Instructor:

Give students the picture prompt and criteria for their response. It is a good idea to provide an example.

Students:

1. Review images.
2. Respond to the prompt and provide reasoning.
3. Be prepared to submit.

Variations & Tips:

- For a more tactile approach in **face-to-face** courses, have students do a visual or written response with pen and paper. Then share with the class.
- In **online courses**, use VoiceThread so students can create a verbal and visual response.
- For **video conference (VC)** and **large-enrollment** courses, students can share their responses by using Padlet.
- Student responses can be in a variety of forms including verbal, written, or visual.
- Allow uncertainty with your response criteria by asking questions like "What do you see?", "What information do you gather from this image?", and "What do you think could be the next step based on this flowchart?".

You may also be interested in:

Drawing for Understanding
Concept Mapping

Resources:

[Mental Representation: A Dual Coding Approach](#)

Let's explore the possibilities together!

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