Visual learning strategies for information literacy

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Getting started

- Think of a current issue or research topic from work or home

- Write this down on your blue strip of paper
Outline of the session

- Wider context of the visual learning journey at De Montfort University
- Opportunity to try out new visual techniques for planning, developing and researching a project:
  - Research plait
  - Dress-up doll of formality
  - Road map to success
Context: Visual Learning journey

- Making textual visual project
- Exploration & trial of techniques and contexts
- Embed in curriculum and dissemination
- Writing PAD Centre, continuation of work
Connecting with the curriculum across all faculties

• Final year Technology students
• Biomedical Sciences
• Media Production
• PhD students in all disciplines
Beyond the curriculum

• New Ways of Seeing…
  (Open Programme for all students)

• New ways of seeing & doing (PhD students)

• Visually map employability (As part of faculty Enhancement Week)

• New ways of planning (Staff)
How does visual creativity help?

- Alternative perspective
- Stimulate enquiry
- Foster reflection
- Help to understand in a deeper way
- To unlock ideas
- Capture and explore complex ideas
- Metaphorical thinking
- Multi-faceted, multi-sensory engagement
- A tool for thinking
Let’s get creative...Thinking about language

- Dress-up doll of formality (Groppel-Wegener 2012)
  - Discovering technical, disciplinary or professional terminology and language
  - Finding the right words for your search
  - Using your doll outline, dress them in the appropriate keywords to find further information on your topic
Select your key themes

- Write down the most important keywords or themes on your yellow strip of paper

- These would enable research on your topic
Where to find information?

- Where do you need to go to find more information for your topic?
- Write down two resources you could use on your pink strip of paper
Creating the research plait

- Take the three strips of paper now completed with details of:
  - The title of your topic
  - Your keywords or themes
  - Resources to be used

- Staple them together at the top
- Plait the three strands
- Staple them at the end
What does this tell us?

- How did it feel to do the plait?
- What does it represent?
- What do you think we’re doing?
Visualise your success: draw your journey

• Draw the route for your topic
• Start point – your initial ideas
• End point
• What landmarks do you pass along the way?
• How do you feel? Add emoticons 😊 or 😞
• Add in extra details – places to go, potential hurdles, people to see

• English, F. (2011) Student writing and Genre: Reconfiguring Academic Knowledge., London, Bloomsbury

• Francis, P. (2009) Inspiring writing in art and design: taking a line for a write., Bristol, Intellect Books

