

# Promoting Thinking Skills through Museums and Galleries and Site Visits

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*In this session we are going to explore some activities that promote thinking both inside and outside the classroom.*

*At the museum*

## **1. See Think Wonder**

Look at an exhibit. Spend some time walking around it and *really* looking. Think about

- what you can SEE (pure description, no interpretation at all)
- what you THINK it is or what it makes you think about.
- what it makes you WONDER

## **2. Through others' eyes**

Look around the exhibition. Enjoy it!

Then, revisit a small part of the exhibition and pretend you are someone else. How does it change your perception? The first four perspectives below are specific to the Jinks exhibition, but you could add other perspectives that are as appropriate to the exhibition.

- A young child
- A teen
- A new parent
- A person with elderly parents
- A migrant? A customer? Someone from a different cultural background

Discuss your reactions from different perspectives with a partner on the walk back to school.

*In class*

## **3. Odd One Out**

Here are five words related to the exhibition:

**human / age / figures / sculptures / art**

Eliminate the odd one out (no right or wrong answers).

Justify your choice.

Eliminate another and so on.

When you have only two words remaining, compare and contrast them.



#### **4. Associating words**

The teacher will give you some words. Put them on the picture (overleaf) according to the age that you associate them with most strongly.

[insert some pictures of works of art by Sam Jinks here;  
possible source: <https://www.giaf.ie/festival/event/in-the-flesh>]

#### **5. Finish the quote**

How could you finish this quote? Think of 3 ways.

“The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age,  
which means never ...

#### **6. Past and future selves**

What advice would you give your younger self?  
What advice would you give your older self?

#### **7. Zoom in**

#### **8. Problem Solving**

The space where you saw the exhibition belongs to the post office. The City of Galway wants the space as a permanent exhibition centre, but the post office doesn't want to give it up. Think of some solutions.

### **Critical thinking**

All of these activities include some aspects of critical thinking. Name some of these aspects.

## References:

- [https://youtu.be/JGdjC3V0\\_y0](https://youtu.be/JGdjC3V0_y0)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fS7VfRLOgnI>
- Do Coyle, Philip Hood, David Marsh (2010) *CLIL Content and Language Integrated Learning*
- Project Zero Harvard Graduate School of Education:  
<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/>

*“Project Zero was founded by the philosopher Nelson Goodman at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1967 to study and improve education in the arts. Goodman believed that arts learning should be studied as a serious cognitive activity, but that “zero” had yet been firmly established about the field; hence, the project was given its name.”*

- See more at:  
<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/who-we-are/about#sthash.rvJD2WOW.dpuf>  
[http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking\\_html\\_files/VisibleThinking1.html](http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/VisibleThinking1.html)
- *Making Thinking Visible: How to promote engagement, understanding and independence for all learners*  
<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/resources/making-thinking-visible-how-to-promote-engagement-understanding-and-independence>