

Capacities for Imaginative Learning

The word “capacities” – rather than “knowledge” or “skills” – indicates that what can be learned from works of art or other objects of study is inexhaustible. As students develop our *Capacities for Imaginative Learning* through their explorations of works of art, they learn to apply the *Capacities* in constructive and imaginative ways in their other academic subjects and in their lives.

Noticing Deeply

to identify and articulate layers of detail in a work of art or other object of study through continuous interaction with it over time

Embodying

to experience a work of art or other object of study through your senses, as well as emotionally, and also to physically represent that experience

Questioning

to ask questions throughout your explorations that further your own learning; to ask the question, “What if?”

Making Connections

to connect what you notice and the patterns you see to your prior knowledge and experiences, to others’ knowledge and experiences, and to text and multimedia resources

Identifying Patterns

to find relationships among the details that you notice, group them, and recognize patterns

Exhibiting Empathy

to respect the diverse perspectives of others in the community; to understand the experiences of others emotionally, as well as intellectually

Living with Ambiguity

to understand that issues have more than one interpretation, that not all problems have immediate or clear cut solutions, and to be patient while a resolution becomes clear

Creating Meaning

to create your own interpretations based on the previous capacities, see these in the light of others in the community, create a synthesis, and express it in your own voice

Taking Action

to try out new ideas, behaviors or situations in ways that are neither too easy nor too dangerous or difficult, based on the synthesis of what you have learned in your explorations

Reflecting/Assessing

to look back on your learning, continually assess what you have learned, assess/identify what challenges remain, and assess/identify what further learning needs to happen. This occurs not only at the end of a learning experience, but is part of what happens throughout that experience. It is also not the end of your learning; it is part of beginning to learn something else.