

VTS: *Visual Thinking Strategies*

The Boston Globe

Credit due for Art Observation Curriculum

July 26, 2008

WE WOULD like to make some clarifications to your July 20 front-page article "[Monet? Gauguin? Using art to make better doctors.](#)"

We were delighted to see the article by Liz Kowalczyk about the Harvard Medical School program that focuses on building observation skills in medical students through discussions of art. We were especially happy to see Kowalczyk refer to "visual thinking strategies." However, Visual Thinking Strategies, or VTS, is the name of both the curriculum and the organization that promotes it nationally.

VTS, which has been used for some time in other medical schools to develop observation skills and group-based reasoning from evidence, is also used in elementary schools in Boston (and elsewhere nationally) to develop critical thinking skills in children. Isn't it interesting that the exact same method has an important impact at both ends of the educational spectrum?

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