

Glossary

accordion book: invented in Asia to accommodate scrolls that had become unmanageable because of their size and length. The accordion book is composed of a continuous folded sheet of paper and is often enclosed between two covers.

action: used by filmmakers to indicate the start of a scene—the moment the camera turns on.

actor: the person telling a story through movement / physical theater.

armature: a sturdy framework on which a sculpture is molded with clay or similar material.

audience: the viewers of a performance.

brushstrokes: visible strokes from a brush, added for texture and meant to show the “handiwork” in a piece of art.

cartography: the science or practice of drawing maps.

center stage: middle of a stage.

close up: a film image taken at close range and showing the subject on a large scale.

collagraph: a print made from a printing plate that has been collaged with materials and built up in order to print a relief image.

the color wheel: a circle with different colored sectors used to show the relationship between colors in art.

composition: the way in which something is put together or arranged: the combination of parts or elements that make up something. Parts of a picture.

cool colors: blues, greens, and purples on the color wheel.

descriptive words: help visualize, describe, define, or explain information about people, places, things, situations, or actions.

director: leader of actors in a performance.

downstage: the front of a stage.

dress rehearsal: practice performance.

earthquake: a sudden and violent shaking of the ground, sometimes causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action.

embellish: to decorate and add interest through multimedia materials (beads, ribbons, glitter, etc).

emphasis: something that is given special importance, value, or prominence.

establishing shot: usually the first shot of a new scene, designed to show the audience where the action is taking place. It is usually a very wide shot or extreme wide shot.

focal point: the center of interest or activity.

geography: the study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources, land use, and industries.

geometric shapes: shapes from math: square, triangle, circle, oval, rectangle.

glacier: a slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow on mountains or near the poles.

grid: a network of lines that cross each other to form a series of squares or rectangles.

hoodoo: a column or pinnacle of weathered rock.

illustrated map: illustrated maps depict a given territory with a more artistic rather than technical style. Pictures are used as indicators of place.

imaginative drawing: drawing from imagination.

lava: hot molten or semifluid rock erupted from a volcano or fissure, or solid rock resulting from cooling of this.

magma: hot fluid or semifluid material below or within the earth's crust from which lava and other igneous rock is formed by cooling.

map: a diagrammatic representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, and special places.

mixed media: the use of a variety of media/material in a work of art. More than one medium (e.g., paint and collage).

monopod: a one-legged support for a camera.

movement: moving the body to represent emotion or parts of a story.

narrator: a person who delivers a commentary accompanying a performance.

observational drawing: drawing from life. The image is not taken from either a photograph or the artist's imagination, but from real-life observation.

over the shoulder shot: a shot of someone or something taken from the perspective or camera angle from the shoulder of another person.

papier-mâché: a substance made of pulped paper or paper pulp mixed with glue and other materials or of layers of paper glued and pressed together, molded when moist to form 3D objects, and becoming hard and strong when dry.

paste paper: a patterned or textured paper made by applying brushes and hand tools to the surface of a paper that has been coated with thin colored paste and is still wet.

pattern: a repeated decorative design.

performance: the completion of a task through the physical representation of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

perspective: the art of drawing solid objects on a two-dimensional surface so as to give the right impression of their height, width, depth, and position in relation to each other when viewed from a particular point.

physical theater: a form of theater that emphasizes the use of physical movement, as in dance and mime, for expression.

picture background: the part of a picture farthest from the viewer.

picture foreground: the part of a picture closest to the viewer.

portraits: a painting, drawing, photograph, or engraving of a person, especially one depicting only the face or head and shoulders.

primary colors: a group of three colors from which all other colors can be obtained by mixing red, yellow, and blue.

printing plate: a base added to, or subtracted from, inked and printed.

pulling a print: making a print.

reference materials: various sources that provide background information or quick facts on any given topic.

research: the investigation of various materials and primary sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

rule of thirds: in photography, the rule of thirds is a type of composition in which an image is divided evenly into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, and the subject of the image is placed at the intersection of those dividing lines, or along one of the lines itself.

scale: the relationship between distances on a map. How distance and size are represented on a map.

scene: the parts/chapters of a story.

scientific illustrations: scientific illustrators visually represent aspects of science, particularly observations of the natural world. The emphasis in scientific illustration is on accuracy and utility and careful detail of the object being observed by the person drawing.

sculpture: a 3D piece of art. Often carved, hand built, or cast in metal or plaster.

secondary colors: the three colors made by mixing the primary colors: orange (red+yellow), green (yellow+blue), and purple (blue + red).

series of prints: a set of prints.

sloppy copy: practice copy.

stage: the location of a performance.

stage left: left side of the stage.

stage right: right side of the stage.

stage wings: either side of stage, unseen by the audience.

symbology: map symbols are used to represent real objects. Without symbols, maps would not be possible. Both shapes and colors can be used for symbols on maps.

symmetry: the quality of being made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis. Sameness/balance on both sides of an image/artwork.

texture: the feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface or a substance.

three-dimensional: having the three dimensions: of length, width, and height. A cube is three-dimensional. Not flat.

two shot: a type of shot in which the frame encompasses two people (the subjects). The subjects do not have to be next to each other, and there are many common two shots which have one subject in the foreground and the other subject in the background.

upstage: the back/rear or a stage.

viewfinder: a device on a camera showing the field of view of the lens, used in framing and focusing the picture.

visual note taking: a process of representing ideas non-linguistically or drawing pictures. This can include concept mapping, but also more artistic ways of visually capturing and representing ideas.

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS): an inquiry-based teaching strategy for all grade levels. The goal of VTS is not to teach the history of a work of art but rather to encourage students to observe independently and to back up their comments with evidence.

voice-over “hook:” the voice-over is read from a script and may be spoken by someone who appears elsewhere in the production, or as synchronous dialogue, where the voice-over is narrating the action that is taking place at the same time, remains the most common technique in voice-overs.

volcano: a mountain or hill, typically conical, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapor, and gas are being or have been erupted from the earth's crust.

warm colors: reds, oranges, and yellows on the color wheel.

wide shot: sometimes referred to as a long shot. It also goes by the name “full shot.” This camera angle shows the entire object or person and their relation to what surrounds them.