

+O'REILLY FILM+ +VISUAL LITERACY+

Visual Literacy | Film | Media Awareness

Sample Workshops

Learning to See: Visual Intelligence

Tackling Fake News and Raising Media Awareness

Visual Literacy for DP English teachers

Using Documentaries in the Classroom

Visual Literacy

Restructuring the Film Course for DP Film teachers

CAS: Filmmaking as an option (for non-Film students).

MYP Passion Project: Simple ways to make a documentary for your exhibition

Make a documentary film in 90 minutes using your phone (PD for teachers)

Persuasion in the Media and Advertising



Recent Testimonials

“Visual Literacy for DP Language and Literature Teachers” *A series of workshops delivered online in February 2021. The participants were HS English teachers and the interested HS teachers.*

“With new changes in IB Language & Literature, it was wonderful to have the expertise and experience of Breen O’Reilly. Breen’s workshops were tailored to accommodate a range of experience and understandings; from beginner to expert and this ensured all our department members developed their capacities in teaching visual literacy. He also provided excellent resources to support our teaching of film, documentaries and visual literacy. Breen’s style was engaging and inclusive. The workshops were well structured and focused on a range of activities and group work. He was willing to work with us on what our specific needs were and created a workshop product that was bespoke to our school. We cannot recommend him highly enough”

- Emma C. Head of English at American School of Doha

Why teaching Visual Literacy has never been more urgent

In 2017, YouTube reported that people watched a billion hours on that service every day. On average, young Americans spent two hours a day watching video online. More than 800 million people used Instagram, for more than 30 minutes a day on average.

In 2018, the New York Times warned, “Photos, videos, graphics and more are taking over our online experience.” Teaching our students to be visually literate and how to pay attention to online manipulation was urgent in 2017. What about today?

With so much more time spent online since the arrival of Covid-19, these statistics must have skyrocketed.

Fake news and media manipulation relies on soundbites and bursts of short videos that target the emotions rather than logic.

Giving students the visual literacy skills to raise their awareness of this has never been more important.



Restructuring the DPFilm course

A series of bespoke workshops with an experienced DP Film Teacher delivered via Zoom Dec-Jan 2021

I am very fortunate to have recently participated in recent sessions with Breen. His depth of understanding of all aspects of the Film course is incredible, and it was extremely beneficial for me and my program to be able to tap into his experience and knowledge. As an experienced Film teacher and examiner, I was able to request rather specific topics for our discussions, and Breen happily tailored our sessions to best fit my needs. He was very generous about sharing his many approaches, resources and insights, and I came away with several projects and ideas that will certainly become part of my course. Perhaps the best part of our time working together was the kind, patient and engaged manner in which Breen conducts himself. - John V.

John V. DP Film Teacher American School of Qatar

Adapting the workshops

Ideally, these workshops would be delivered in a face-to-face environment but all are easily adapted for online delivery.

All my workshops can be adapted for students or teachers/administrators. In non-Covid times, I can come to your school as a visiting expert and work with both teachers and students.





Four Steps to Battling Fake News by using Visual Literacy Skills

1. Learning to See

Using VTS (Visual teaching Strategies) and teaching students how to pay attention to images.

2. Learning to See: How to Read a Film

Understanding the language of film and transferring this to other media and images.

3. Understanding Documentaries

Ken Burns said, "All documentaries are manipulation"

Understanding the techniques of media manipulation through viewing documentary film.

4. Persuasion in the Media and Advertising

Understanding how to recognize to techniques of persuasion and logical fallacies in media and advertising.

Below: Feedback from participants in my most recent Online DP Film workshop (Nov 2020). While the content of this workshop is completely different from my own bespoke workshops for film teachers, it gives a snapshot of how effectively I can deliver in an online environment.

Workshop Leader Performance

Please rate your workshop leader in the following aspects:

Field	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Knowledge of the topics covered in the workshop	0%	0%	0%	100%
Understanding and passion of the IB mission and international-mindedness	0%	0%	0%	100%
Clarity of communication	0%	0%	0%	100%
Respect for multiple perspectives	0%	0%	0%	100%
Collaboration with workshop co-leader(s) (if applicable)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Use of media and technology to enhance participant learning	0%	0%	0%	100%
Preparedness for delivering the workshop	0%	0%	0%	100%
Discussion facilitation	0%	0%	0%	100%
An engaging, positive, empathetic attitude	0%	0%	0%	100%
Facilitation of reflective learning practices	0%	0%	0%	100%
Fostering participants to make connections between the workshop content and their own experiences and contexts	0%	0%	0%	100%
Demonstrating critical thinking skills, such as the ability to critically evaluate and synthesize information	0%	0%	0%	100%
Encouraging and promoting the generation of new ideas, approaches, and solutions	0%	0%	0%	100%

Overall performance of the workshop leader

Scale: 1 (Very poor) to 10 (Excellent)

Field	Min	Max	Mean	Responses
Overall rating	10.0	10.0	10.0	5

Upcoming workshops

Reading the Language of Film (for DP Art students)

Delivered online via Zoom

Taking their art knowledge as a starting point, we will examine the similar and different tools that artists and filmmakers use too create meaning.

How to make a documentary film as a CAS option

Delivered online via Zoom

A hands-on workshop where DP students will create a short documentary film using a phone to film, record ambient sound and add a narration.