

Overview of the *Visible Thinking* web site

www.pz.harvard.edu/vt/index.html

Visible Thinking is a broad and flexible framework for enriching classroom learning and includes:

- deeper understanding of content
- greater motivation for learning
- development of learners' thinking and learning abilities
- development of learners' attitudes toward thinking and learning and their alertness to opportunities for thinking and learning (the 'dispositional' side of thinking)
- a shift in classroom culture toward a community of enthusiastically engaged thinkers and learners
- we learn best what we can see and hear.

The six sections of this web site include:

1. **Visible Thinking in action**

Every committed educator wants better learning and more thoughtful students. Visible Thinking is a way of helping students to achieve this without a separate 'thinking skills' course or fixed lessons. This section describes Visible Thinking and examines the research into this area.

2. **Getting started**

This section identifies the following three ways to get started using Visible Thinking:

- Routines – using learning actions that are thinking-rich
- Ideals - thinking routines that emphasise the ideal and draw out students' ideas and reflections about that ideal
- Documentation - a reflective and prospective examination that shapes the design of future learning situations and focuses attention on how to capture, record, and reflect on the thinking students are doing in your classroom.

3. **Thinking routines**

Easy to use mini-strategies that are repeatedly used in the classroom and are the patterns by which we operate and go about the job of learning and working together in a classroom environment.

4. **Thinking ideals**

Covers areas of what constitutes good thinking such as understanding truth, fairness, and creativity.

5. **School-wide culture of thinking**

Develops thinking dispositions within a culture and students experience school as a place where thinking is valued and students are given time and rich opportunities for thinking.

6. **Additional resources**

Includes links to Visible Thinking articles, books and other web sites.