



NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

Visual Thinking Strategies Activity

Activity Overview: Help students *hone their evidence gathering and analysis skills* by leading a discussion about the photo labeled “Confrontation Outside a Dealer’s Auction” using **Visual Thinking Strategies** (a series of prompting questions designed to help museum goers more deeply engage with an object or image).

Grades: This activity was created for students in middle or high school and should be adjusted accordingly.

Background Information: For more information on the 1985-1986 New Bedford fishermen’s strike, [click here](#).

Activity Directions:

This activity works well as part of a lesson on labor unions and New Bedford history. Students can first look through the “Labor Unrest” section of the [Changing Way of Life Digital Exhibit](#).

- Questions for students based on the image, “[Confrontation Outside a Dealer’s Auction](#)”
 - What do you think is going on here (or a related, more pointed question like How do you think these two people feel about each other? Who do you think holds more power? Why do you think these two people are arguing?)
 - Follow up with these two questions: What do you see in the photo that makes you say that? What more can we find (that supports or challenges that)?
- Tools for leading Visual Thinking Strategies:
 - Note when someone interprets the photo differently based on different life experiences/biases
 - Model noticing people’s clothes, body language etc.
 - If students are having trouble making hypotheses, push students to backup their beliefs with evidence from the photo

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