

Thinking Move Z



Zoom

Focus: *Where should we focus?*

Overview: *What's the big picture*

"When director are making films, they use different camera shots for different purposes. They might zoom in to show the sweat on the brow of a hero at a tense moment, or zoom out to show the full scale of an army ready for battle. In thinking, zooming in to small details and zooming out to get the bigger picture can both be important."

Zooming In means giving closer attention to the small details. Zooming Out shows things in proportion or perspective. The journal of a single soldier or a map of the front can both be illuminating in understanding a conflict. You can zoom in or out in time as well: what makes news today is rarely as important as trends that develop over years and decades.

Choosing the best level at which to investigate something is part of enquiry. Seeing how those different levels fit together is especially important to understanding complex systems, for example seeing how processes within individual cells connect to bodily movements.

How would we use it in class?

3 Shots

Students in groups of 7-10 plan and then present three tableaux, each representing a different "shot size" from a scene. e.g. the head of a parrot, a pirate standing at a ship's wheel, a galleon. Other groups have to identify the tableaux.

S,M,H,D,W,M,Y,D,C,M

First solve the puzzle of what this series means – units of time from second to millennium. Then consider something broad and interesting – the life of an animal, or a nation. Think about what might be important in understanding it at each of these timescales – from respiration to natural selection, or from the signing of a treaty to the preservation of a language.

Yo-yo facilitation

Move from a particular question, such as "Was it right for the UK to go to war over Czechoslovakia?" to a more general question, such as, "When is it right to go to war?" and back again, using the particular arguments to inform general principles and vice versa.

Gradual Picture Removal

Start with a small detail from a picture to get focused attention, and invite predictions as you gradually reveal the whole thing.

Applications in the curriculum

Geography – Is salmon farming sustainable? – What makes something sustainable?

English – Is Jekyll and Hyde a typical gothic novel? / What makes a gothic novel?