"The importance of images and visual media in contemporary culture is changing what it means to be literate in the 21st century. Today's society is highly visual, and visual imagery is no longer supplemental to other forms of information. New digital technologies have made it possible for almost anyone to create and share visual media. Yet the pervasiveness of images and visual media does not necessarily mean that individuals are able to critically view, use, and produce visual content. Individuals must develop these essential skills in order to engage capably in a visually-oriented society. Visual literacy empowers individuals to participate fully in a visual culture."

From the ACRL Board of Directors, 2011

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**Resources**

- Blog by Todd Finley in Edutopia

- The Literacy Toolbox - created by the College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland College Park
  [http://www.humanities.umd.edu/vislit/activities.php](http://www.humanities.umd.edu/vislit/activities.php)


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**Seeing is Believing: Visual Literacy in the 21st Century**

A+ Schools Program's 20th Anniversary Conference
August 3-5, 2015

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What is Visual Literacy?

A student............  Which of these are students fully engaged in in our schools?

Which of these are students fully engaged in in our schools?

1 – defines
2 – accesses
3 – interprets
4 – evaluates
5 – uses
6 – designs
7 – ethics

Where must we, as educators, focus more explicit instruction?

American College and Research Library Standards

- Determine the nature and extent of the visual materials needed
- Find and access needed images and visual media effectively and efficiently
- Interpret and analyze the meanings of images and visual media
- Evaluate images and their sources
- Use images and visual media effectively
- Design and create meaningful images and visual media
- Understand many of the ethical, legal, social, and economic issues surrounding the creation and use of images and visual media, and access and use visual materials ethically

Ideas for My Classroom

- How do we weave intentionality of Visual Literacy skills into classroom instruction?

Set a Goal for Your Classroom!