**Analyzing Visual Images and Stereotyping**

Use this teaching strategy to lead students in a critical analysis of an image, and to help students develop and enhance observational, interpretive, and critical thinking skills.

**Rationale**

* Develop awareness of historical context
* Develop critical thinking skills, particularly in regards to visual images
* Enhance their observation and interpretive skills
* Develop conceptual learning techniques

**Procedure**

**Step One:**  
Look Deeply: Look at the picture for a good long time. Observe shapes, colors, textures, the position of people and/or objects, etc.  
  
**Step Two:**   
Write down below what you see without making any interpretation about what the picture is trying to say.  
  
I see...  
  
**Step Three:**  
What questions do you have about this picture that you would need answered before you can begin to interpret it? (Ask as many questions as you have.)  
  
*I want to know*... *I was wondering*...  
  
Who?...  
What?...  
Where?...  
When?...  
Why?...  
  
**Step Four:**  
Discuss your questions with two other people in the class to try to find some answers.  
  
**Step Five:**  
Given the historical context and subject of the piece, what do you think the photographer /cartoonist is trying to say (what does the piece mean?), and who do you think is the intended audience?  
  
I think the artist is saying...  
I think the intended audience is...  
  
**Step Six:**   
Discuss your interpretation with the class, and be prepared to support your view by referring to specifics in the drawing/picture and in what you know about the history of the time.

**Example**

Use this technique in class to analyze a:

* piece of art
* photograph
* political cartoon
* propaganda poster
* video clip
* (any visual image)