

# Student Activity: Integrating Ways of Knowing, Areas of Knowledge, and the Shared-Personal Knowledge Relationship

## Directions:

Complete the following chart to illustrate how particular Ways of Knowing are used in studying material in the Area of Knowledge of your choice, and to investigate how shared and personal knowledge contributed to your understanding of that material.

## Procedure:

1. Choose an Area of Knowledge you would like to investigate in terms of the role of Shared and Personal Knowledge and in terms of Ways of Knowing.
2. Choose a stimulus, problem, sample, or extract from that Area of Knowledge to analyze, and put that in the top box of the chart. Note that the stimulus can be anything which is an example of the material of the chosen Area of Knowledge—a math problem, a political cartoon, a painting, an historical photograph, a paragraph from a novel, and so on.
3. Once you have chosen your stimulus, then analyze it with the intent of discovering what it means. What answers or knowledge does it contain? As you analyze, fill in the chart, which requires you to note, in the first column, which Ways of Knowing you are using in order to do so, and, in the second column, whether and how you are relying on shared and personal knowledge in order to construct, develop, and discover meaning.

AREA OF KNOWLEDGE: [FILL IN HERE]



PERTINENT WAY(S) OF KNOWING	SHARED KNOWLEDGE & PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE
<p>Sense Perception: Obviously you need to see the painting to interpret it, but more importantly how one sees it may depend of their different perspective. Emotional coloring may come into play if we like it, then we “see” it with different eyes than if we don’t. How does our taste, culture, beliefs affect the way we view the world?</p>	<p>What a culture values is part of shared knowledge. A shared knowledge of what is art and what we deem to be high art, versus pop art, etc. can vary. Maybe one would look at this and see just a wave. But to Japanese, it would embody the awe and power of nature and man’s place within it as well as a symbolic. Of course, we all personally view and interpret art in our way as well. The question of how do our expectations, assumptions and beliefs affect our sense perceptions is a good knowledge question to consider to discuss sense perception and personal knowledge.</p>
<p>Emotion: Art pieces evoke different emotions and those emotions vary between individuals. We may feel happy, sad, disgust, surprised, angry. How we feel about it is our interpretation, regardless of the artist’s intent. Artist’s intent versus the interpretation by viewers.</p>	<p>The piece may evoke a common emotional feeling (representative of societal norms, traditions) or it may also touch someone very personally. In that way, I can personally feel a connection and come to understand Japanese culture more through traditional art. I may realize that I love Japanese art- personal knowledge.</p>
<p>Imagination: We have to use our imagination to think about what being confronted with a giant wave or even what the artist’s intentions were when he painted this. We have to think about where and when drew this. What was the inspiration for the piece.</p>	<p>Knowledge of the artist’s intention can be studied and analyzed in the art community. We can come to know what is characteristic of his style or the methodology behind it. It can also inspire imagination and creativity within us personally. A question that arises though is whether or not there is such a thing as an original creative idea? Or, are all ideas based on prior knowledge and experiences.</p>
<p>Memory: When we view art, we look for patterns and connections to our own lives. If for instance, I love the water, this art piece might calm me and make me feel happy and at peace. If I am scared of the water, maybe it would evoke a negative emotion. If I have knowledge of the various tsunamis that have struck in the last decade (Indonesia, Japan) then I may feel empathy with those with faced the great waves. These emotions and feelings are a result of my memories, experiences.</p>	<p>Art is shared knowledge in that there are methods and interpretations that are studied within the community, but it is also personal knowledge because of the connections a piece may evoke within the interpreter of the piece. It may cause me to remember something shared, like the tsunami that hit Fukushima or it may cause me to remember something personal about myself, I know I am at peace in the water. I love the water.</p>

