

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS ON YOUR TOUR

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Questioning your visitors & general chitchat before a tour is a good way to establish a comfortable relationship with them and get a sense of where they are coming from personally & experientially.

Good questions:

I. Are open-ended ... not looking for specific right or wrong answers.

- What's going on here?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can you find?

II. Encourage closer looking.

- Why do you suppose the artist did ...?
- What sounds would you hear if you could step into this painting?
- What do you notice first? What does the artist do to make you look there first?
- What do you think is going to happen next?

III. Help viewers make personal connections.

- Does this remind you of something you have seen?
- Have you ever been to a place like this? Seen people who looked like these people?
- If you were the artist how would you like to show this subject?
- If you could choose an artist to paint your portrait would you rather ...?
- If you could ask the artist a question ... what would you like to know?

IV. Develop critical thinking skills.

- Compare/contrast - Same/different ... Venn diagram
<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/venn.pdf>
- Why would a museum want to collect this work?

V. Encourage everyone to participate.

- Who sees something nobody has mentioned yet?
- What work that we saw today would you like to come back and visit/show a friend?
- What work would you like to take home with you?
- Which image makes your brain work the hardest?

