

# OPTIC

OPTIC is an organized approach for teaching students how to read visual or graphic text closely. As noted in *How to Study in College* (2001) by Walter Pauk, the five letters in the word OPTIC provide a mnemonic device to remember the five key elements in analyzing a visual. OPTIC can be used with any visual or graphic text, including photographs, diagrams, charts, and fine art. For more information, see: Pauk, W. (2000). *How to study in college* (7th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston.



<p><b>O</b> is for Overview.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct a brief overview of the main subject of the visual.</li></ul>	
<p><b>P</b> is for Parts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scrutinize the parts of the visual.</li><li>• Note any elements or details that seem important.</li></ul>	
<p><b>T</b> is for Title.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the title or caption of the visual (if present) for added information.</li></ul>	
<p><b>I</b> is for Interrelationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the words in the title or caption and the individual parts of the visual to determine connections and relationships within the graphic.</li></ul>	
<p><b>C</b> is for Conclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draw a conclusion about the meaning of the visual as a whole.</li><li>• Summarize the message in one or two sentences.</li></ul>	