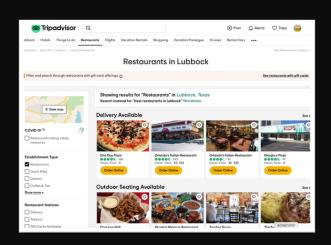
Reading multimodally: Guiding L2 learners to interpret everyday web texts





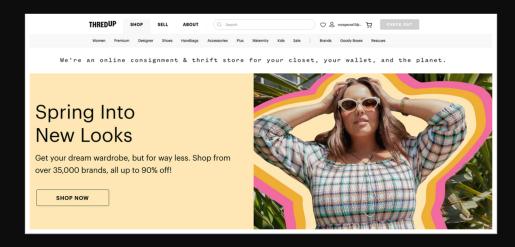


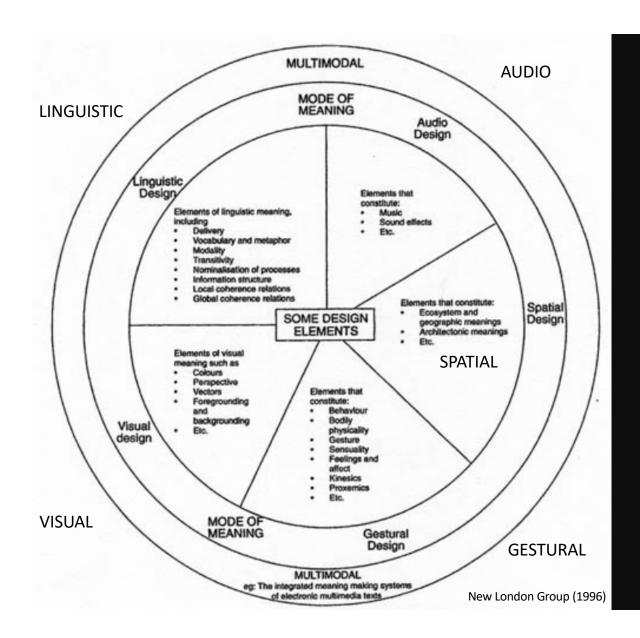




What is a web text?







What is a multimodal text?

Linguistic

Delivery Vocabulary and metaphor Modality Transitivity Nominalization of processes Information structure Local and global coherence relations

Visual

Colors
Perspective
Vectors
Foregrounding
Backgrounding

Gestural

Behavior
Bodily physicality
Gesture
Sensuality
Feelings and
affect
Kinesics
Proxemics

Spatial

Ecosystem and geographic meanings
Architectonic meanings

Audio

Music Sound effects Silences

New London Group (1996)



HAND SANITIZE



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What is reading?

"...reading, in the context of second/foreign language learning, is ... a literacy practice that involves the reader's purposes and active participation in understanding the text's sociosemiotic contexts"

(Abraham & Farías, 2017, pp. 61-2)

What is reading multimodally?

- Communication is inherently multimodal
- Different modes organize knowledge in different ways
- Ensembles of modes create new meanings

Logic of display in TIME

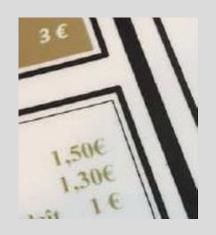
Logic of display in SPACE



What is this sign communicating? Where did this appear?



What is this sign communicating? Where did this appear? How do you know?





conventions

What mode is the most prominent? (image? language? color? font? positions and layout?) What colors are present?

Describe the camera angle. Looking up? Looking down?



What is the most important element depicted in this text?



relationships









Source: https://www.bfmtv.com/economie/mcdonald-s-subway-o-tacos-quel-est-le-fast-food-le-plus-present-dans-votre-ville-1614560.html

What mode is the most prominent? (image? language? color? font? positions and layout?) What colors are present?

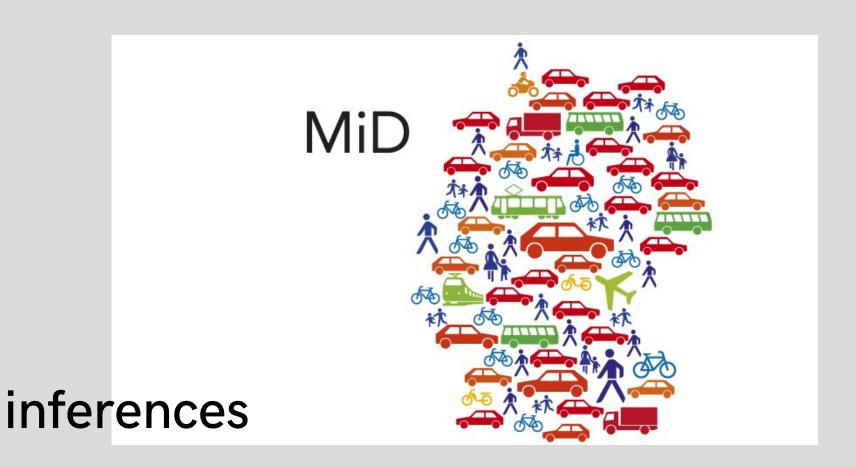
Describe the camera angle. Looking up? Looking down?



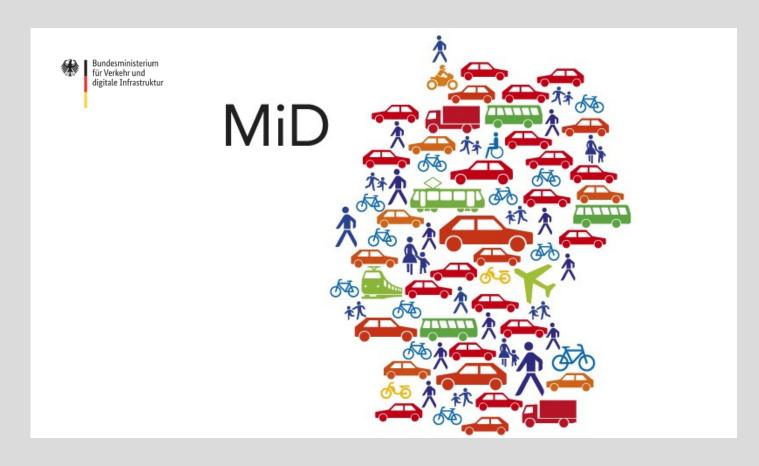
What is the most important element depicted in this text?



What do you see here? What do you notice first?



What modes of transport do you see? What kinds of people are represented? Are the people alone or together?





































Common concerns between reading written language and multimodal texts

conventions

relationships



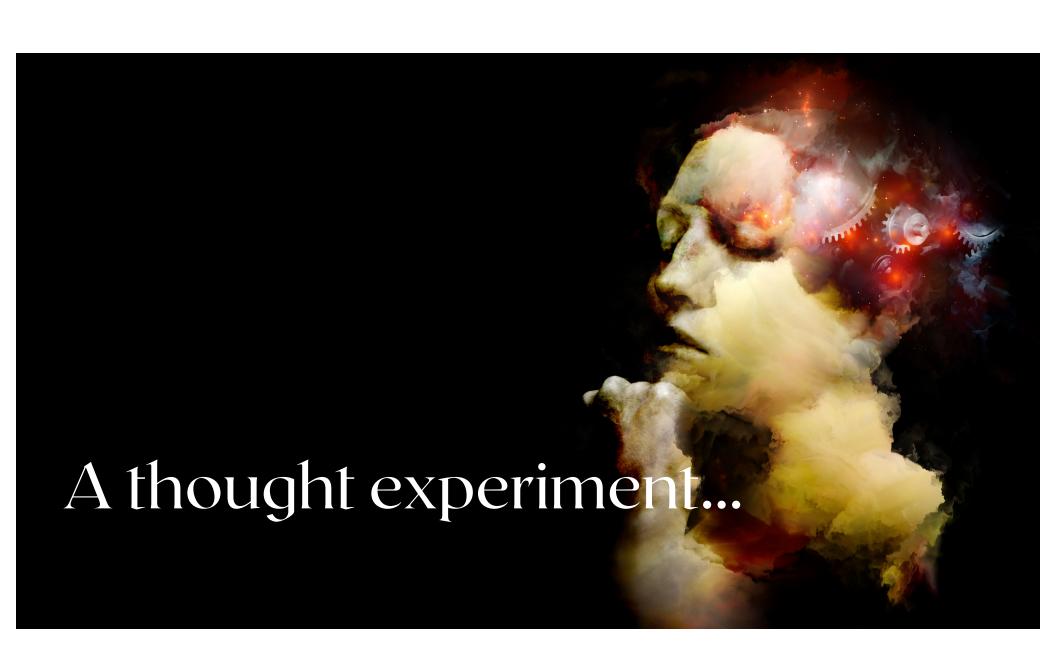
inferences

design choices

...with new

kinds of signs





From the ACTFL Can-Do Statements

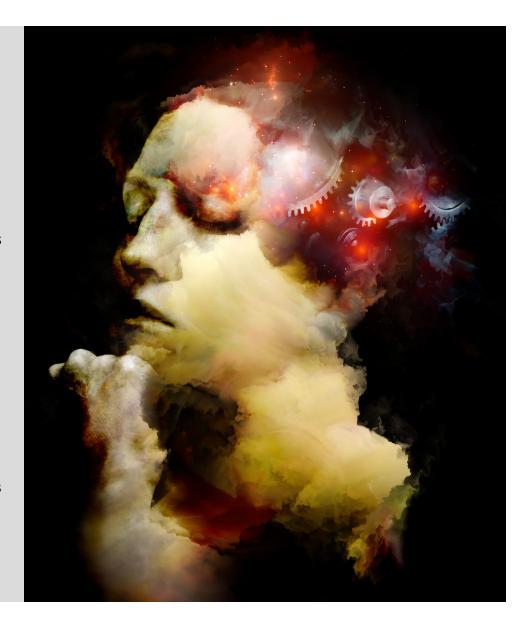
"What elements of literacy lead to higher levels of understanding in the **Interpretive Mode**?

Learners move along the proficiency continuum at different speeds in listening, reading or viewing. Learners bring prior skills and experience in L1 and L2 to the Interpretive mode.

Factors that impact how well learners understand texts include:

- a) text complexity or length
- b) familiarity with topic and background knowledge
- c) ability to use literacy strategies such as recognizing key words, detecting the main idea, identifying supporting details, noting organizational features, guessing meaning from context, identifying logical inferences, identifying the author's perspective and cultural perspectives/norms."

https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/can-dos/Can-Do_Benchmarks_Indicators.pdf



Literacy strategies for the interpretive mode

Current Can-Do

recognizing key words
detecting the main idea
identifying supporting details
noting organizational features
guessing meaning from context
identifying logical inferences
identifying the author's perspective
identifying cultural perspectives/norms

Revised for Multimodal Texts

recognizing salient modes and designs
detecting the main message
identifying supporting details
noting organizational features
guessing meaning from context
identifying logical inferences
identifying the author's perspective
identifying cultural perspectives/norms

coffee with milk hot chocolate tea herbal tea Chocolat 3€
The 2.5€
Infusion 2.5€

PRIX DU CAFÉ EN TERRASSE

UN CAFÉ

"a coffee"

coffee with milk hot chocolate tea herbal tea

Chocolat 3€
Thé 2.5€
Thé 2.5€
Thission 2.5€

PRIX DU CAFÉ EN TERRASSE

"UN CAFÉ."

"UN CAFÉ, S'IL VOUS PLAIT."

"4.25€

"a coffee"

"a coffee, please"

coffee with milk hot chocolate tea herbal tea

Infusion 2,5€

price for coffee on the patio (aka patio pricing)

PRIX DU CAFÉ EN TERRASSE

"a coffee"

"a coffee, please"

*UN CAFÉ, S'IL VOUS PLAIT."........ 4,25€

"Hello, a coffee, please" "BONJOUR, UN CAFÉ, S'IL VOUS PLAIT."1,40€

Literacy strategies for the interpretive mode

Current Can-Do

recognizing key words
detecting the main idea
identifying supporting details
noting organizational features
guessing meaning from context
identifying logical inferences
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Revised for Multimodal Texts

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identifying cultural perspectives/norms



Americain 2€ Noisette 2€ Copuccino 3,5€ Café au Lait 3e Chocolat 3€ Thé 2,5€ Infusion 2,5€ PRIX DU CAFÉ EN TERRA "UN CAFÉ".... *UN CAFÉ, S'IL VOUS PLAIT.".... "BONJOUR, UN CAFÉ, S'IL VOUS PI



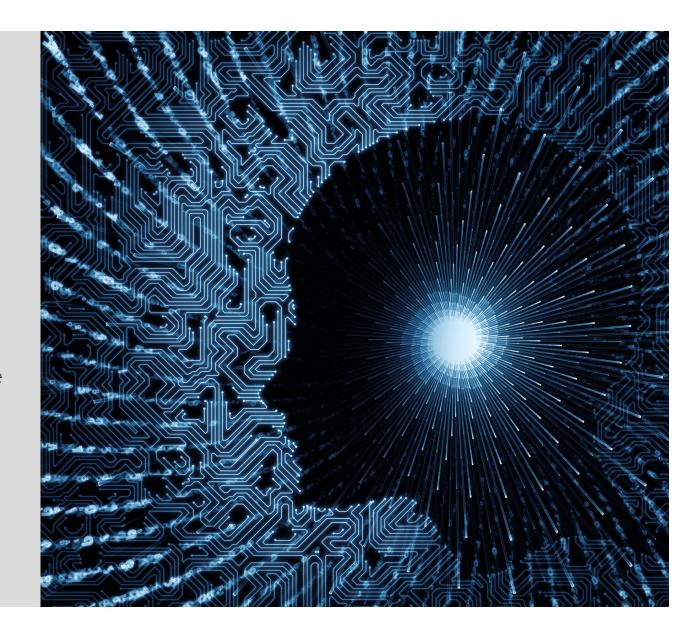
Guiding L2 readers to read multi modally: what will it take?

paradigm shifts in thinking about what constitutes reading

From reading as comprehension of texts to reading as literacy practice

From reading to get information or be entertained, to reading for a much more expansive range of purposes

From reading to learn to learning to read





paradigm shifts in terms of what constitutes a text

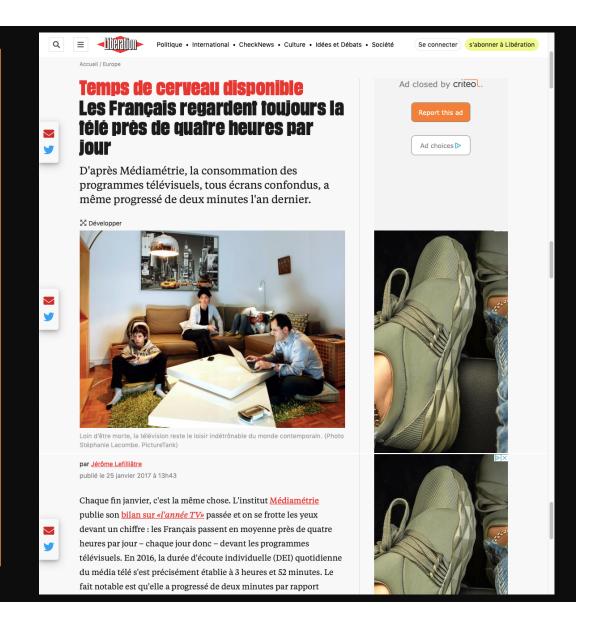
creative extensions of our existing materials

ortistik rezo

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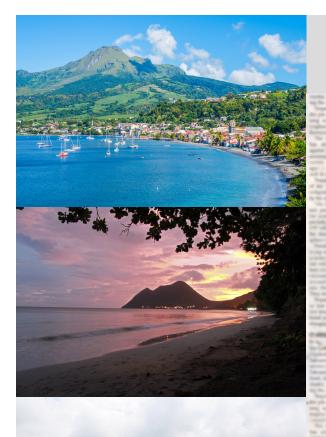


[Traditional textbook article here with only the written text copied from the authentic, original article on the right. Without colors, without logos, and with a different photograph.]



Covid-19 : Olivier Véran et Bruno Le Maire, deux ministres au cœur de la crise





Guide de voyageur



"traveler's guide"



Beginning task

What is represented?

vocabulary for nouns: trees, sky, flowers, etc.

What aesthetic is being portrayed?

Vocabulary for adjectives for calm, peaceful, happy, beautiful, etc.

Intermediate task

Who might travel to such a place?

Responses conveyed in short, multi-clause sentences, perhaps with the conditional:

______ (people) would go there because _____.

_____ (people) would not go there because _____

Discussions of access, mobility, leisure activities.

Advanced task

Explain the impact of tourism on (local population, environment)

Responses conveyed in longer stretches of discourse, with more complex sentences, embedded clauses, cause-effect structures, nominalizations, etc.

Discussions of sustainable tourism.











Guide to analysis of multimodal posters (can be adapted for any language)

Indicate the number of your group's poster here:

Design and layout	What element of the design is dominant? <u>Language ? Images ?</u> Shapes? <u>Colors ?</u>		
	What is the relationship between forms and images and language? Translation? Complementarity?		
Font and color	How many colors are there?		
	Describe the colors? Vivid? Dark?		
	What are the colors and what effect is desired?		
	What types of images are there? What is the function of the image in the poster?		
	Describe the font. Serious? <u>Happy</u> ? How many types of fonts are there?		
Language	Is the language formal or colloquial? Give examples.		

10 GESTES EFFICACES ET FACILES

Limitez les emballages 26 Kg de déchets en moins

Produisez

en moins

du compost

40 Kg de déchets



2 Ji hili di Imperi





Réparez ou donnez vos appareils 16 à 20 Kg de déchets en moins









Préférez les écorecharges 1 Kg de déchets en moins



Imprimez moins 6 Kg de déchets en moins



Donnez vos anciens vêtements 2 Kg de déchets en moins



Préférez les cabas ou sacs réutilisables : 2kg de déchets en moins



Adoptez les gestes alternatifs :

pour éviter de jeter des aliments, acheter à la juste quantité. 20 Kg de déchets en moins

Language	Is the language formal or colloquial? Give examples.
	Is the language an everyday register or in a technical register? Give examples.
Authorship	Is it more of a personal or institutional poster? How do you know?
	Who created this poster? How do you know?
	Is the author young or old? How do you know?
	Is the author a student? Professional? How do you know?
Audience	Where would one likely find this poster? How do you know?
	Who is this poster for? Children? Teenagers? Adults? How do you know?







pour le climat et l'emploi

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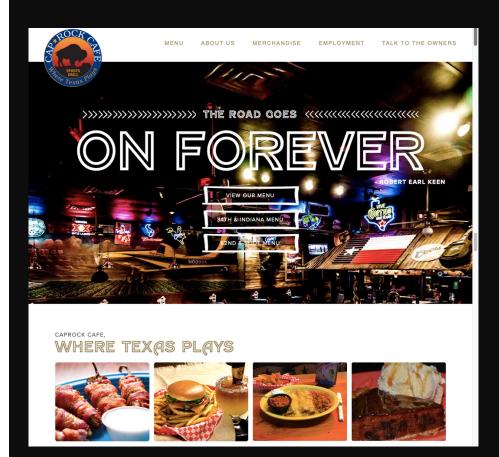
www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Other multimodal web texts

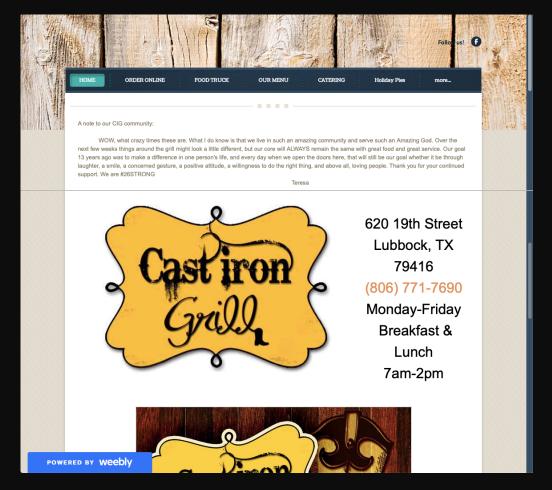
restaurant web pages
food ads
instagram posts
clothing store web pages













Combining traditional FL tasks with multimodal reading tasks

What is the least expensive appetizer?	
the most expensive appetizer?	
What is the most complicated entrée? the simplest? the simplest?	ne
Which dessert seems the most delicious?	

Assessment options...

Traditional tasks and their objectives

- ask students to say how much the different items cost
 - (reproduce language in a complete sentence, produce numbers in the target language)
- ask if something is more or less expensive than another item
 - (re-produce vocabulary; produced the comparative)
- find the item that is the most expensive
 - (assess students' ability to recognize and understand the superlative)

Assessment options... Interpretive, taking into account multiple modes

- ask students to compare texts:
 - Which restaurant would you choose for a kid's birthday party? a romantic dinner?
 - Support your answer by describing at least three elements of design in the website.



A framework for reading multimodal texts...



Describe Interpret Evaluate

modes – semiotic resources that allow us to make meaning material (Kress, from Bezemer, 2012)



design - particular representational choices

colors
perspective
lines
foregrounding
backgrounding
camera angles
spatial layout
font

vocabulary to describe the qualities of sounds...

shrill

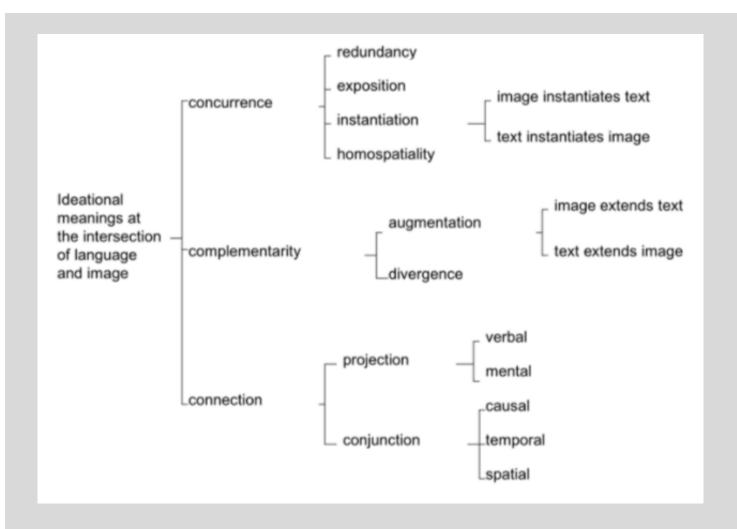
melodic

twangy

muffled

brassy

percussive



A metalanguage for multiliteracies

p. 67

Unsworth, L. (2006). Towards a metalanguage for multiliteracies education: Describing the meaning-making resources of language-image interaction. *English Teaching: Practice and Critique, 5*(1), 55–76.

Some frameworks for reading instruction...

	Instructional Stage	Suggested Learning Activities
1	Pre-reading	Predicting (Situated practice / Critical framing)
		Instructional conversations (Situated practice / Critical framing)
		Scanning for information (Situated practice)
2	Initial reading	Sequencing of text elements (Situated practice)
		Reader's theater (Situated practice / Critical framing)
		Information mapping (Overt instruction)
3	Detailed reading	Reading text signals (Overt instruction)
		Synonym substitution (Overt instruction)
		Focusing on relationships (Overt instruction)
4	Critical reading	Multiple interpretations (Critical framing)
		Textual comparison (Overt instruction)
		Critical focus questions (Critical framing)
5	Knowledge application	Reading journal (Situated practice / Critical framing)
		Text elaboration (Transformed practice)
		Story retelling (Transformed practice)

p. 156

Paesani, K., Allen, H. W., & Dupuy, B. (2016). A Multiliteracies Framework for Collegiate Foreign Language Teaching (Theory and Practice in Second Language Classroom Instruction). (J. Liskin-Gasparro & M. Lacorte, Eds.) (1st ed.). Saddle River: Pearson.

Table 1. Three stages of the critical reading and writing project.

Stage	Activity	Purpose
Exposure	Students analyze and deconstruct language and other semiotic resources used in advertisements, news reports, fiction and other 'everyday' texts found on the Web	To expose the stereotypes (gender, ethnic, class, etc.) and implicit assumptions and values embedded in such texts
Intervention	Students assume different roles to rewrite these texts from different perspectives and for different audiences across different genres and modes	To explore alternative ways of representing 'reality'
Reflection	Students write reflective journals to contemplate the different world views and perspectives that result from their 'textual interventions'	To reflect on the activities to hopefully produce a broadened view of the world and how it is portrayed in and through everyday texts p. 544

Teo, P. (2014). Making the familiar strange and the strange familiar: a project for teaching critical reading and writing. *Language and Education*, *28*(6), 539–551. http://doi.org/10.1080/09500782.2014.921191

Why does this matter?

WHY SHOULD WE TEACH FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS TO READ MULTIMODAL TEXTS?







Design awareness

Foster awareness of how our design choices communicate our values, identities, and perspectives

Cultural discourses

Invite students to see underlying cultural perspectives that manifest in discourse, through texts

Participatory literacy

Prepare students for full engagement with all forms of literacy



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Paesani, K., Allen, H. W., & Dupuy, B. (2016). *A Multiliteracies Framework for Collegiate Foreign Language Teaching (Theory and Practice in Second Language Classroom Instruction).* (J. Liskin-Gasparro & M. Lacorte, Eds.) (1st ed.). Saddle River: Pearson.

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