VISIBLE THINKING

This extended session introduces participants to the theory and practice of a powerful intervention called Visible Thinking, an intervention that blends subject matter learning with the development of students' thinking skills and attitudes. The presenters include teachers from several schools in different parts of the world deeply involved in the practical use of Visible Thinking, as well as university researchers responsible for its technical development.

The basic idea of Visible Thinking is remarkably simple: make students' thinking visible (and audible) in a range of systematic ways around content learning in a manner that not only build skills but fosters alertness to thinking opportunities and positive engaged attitudes toward thinking and thoughtful learning, creating a culture of thinking and learning in the classroom. The session will begin with a very brief history of the initiative, originally developed at Lemshaga Akademi in Sweden in collaboration with a group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and now in use in several settings in different parts of the world. The session will share some basic practical techniques of Visible Thinking, World Wide Web resources, videos illustrating the classroom process, personal narratives from experienced teachers, a collaborative teacher development model, and brief research supports from the University participants.

Presenters will include Professor David Perkins and Dr. Ron Ritchhart from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and educators from schools around the world including the International School of Amsterdam and Bialik College, Australia.