



## Footnotes Training Days



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Our education systems and workplaces are steeped in words. Information is presented in a linear, lexical way with the assumption that this method of communication is universally effective. Consequently, people with a bias towards creative, multi-layered and visual thinking are often marginalised, finding this environment stifling and confusing. Often left to their own devices, they need to learn how to process information in their own personalized ways, whilst engaging with the demands of the linear environment that surrounds them.

Visual thinking specialist Oliver West, has over the last ten years developed 'Footnotes', a portfolio of visual thinking techniques for learning and personal development. These techniques facilitate the learning of those who think predominantly in visual terms (particularly those with dyslexic tendencies), many of whom have not had their learning potential realised with traditional linear-lexical teaching methods. Developed by a chronically dyslexic landscape artist and university lecturer, they give visual thinkers the freedom to think in their own way, and then communicate linearly. In this way, visual creativity is allowed to flourish without the constraints of linear logic, and many learners whose talents would never have fully emerged can find ways to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

The techniques have many applications, but focus on enabling visual thinkers to assimilate, sequence, store and recall information. As well as unique insights into the mind of a visual thinker, Footnotes Training Days practically demonstrate how to help students with:

- Organisational skills – sequencing information and tasks without lists.
- Essay-planning – structuring essays in pictures and getting thoughts onto paper.
- Revision – recording and recalling information visually.
- Presentations – using pictures as verbal prompts.
- Note-taking – rapid pictorial recording of verbal information.
- Reading – how to visually assimilate and remember larger texts.

Training days also incorporate question and answer sessions when specific cases, and specific applications can be discussed.

Footnotes Training Days are especially useful for dyslexia and learning support workers, teaching assistants, tutors and of course any teachers who want dyslexic and/or visual thinking students to learn more effectively.

A possible itinerary for a full day of training would usually look something like this:  
A Half day itinerary can be arranged.

<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; WELCOME</b>
<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>A GLIMPSE INTO THE MIND OF A VISUAL THINKER</b>
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11.15am</b>	<b>AN INTRODUCTION TO FOOTNOTES VISUAL THINKING TECHNIQUES</b>
<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS OF FOOTNOTES</b>
<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC CASES &amp; EXAMPLES</b>