

Anticipation Exercise



This is a comprehension strategy that is used before reading to activate students' prior knowledge and build curiosity about a new topic.

This strategy also stimulates student interest in a topic and sets a purpose for reading, listening or watching. They teach students to make predictions, anticipate and verify predictions. They will connect new information to prior knowledge.

- The teacher writes 4/6 statements about key ideas in the text; some true and some false.
- Add 2 columns labelled Agree and Disagree.
- Read aloud or ask the students to read each of the statements and ask the students to tick if they agree or disagree. Provide an opportunity for discussion.
- The emphasis is not on right or wrong answers but on sharing what they know and making predictions.
- Students for example read a paragraph, listen to a song or watch a scene from a film.
- Students then revisit each statement and reassess whether they agree or disagree.
- Feedback can be taken from the whole group at this stage – ask if there are any surprises or other observations.

Tips

- Keep the number of statements small, between 4 and 6.
- Anticipation exercise can be a useful tool in eliciting prior knowledge.
- Gives a focus for students during the reading, listening, watching or information gathering process.
- Students can be paired up, or squared up (2 pairs make a group of 4) to compare answers.

Further Information

Further reading and support on implementing this strategy is available on www.jct.ie and the template is available on the PDST website www.pdst.ie.



Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Managing myself
- ▶ Communicating
- ▶ Being literate

Resources

- ▶ Anticipation Exercise Template or Worksheet

Room Layout

Can be done as an **individual exercise** or in **groups**

Assessment

A useful tool for formative assessment before, during and after reading

Supporting Homework

Students can be asked to generate an anticipation exercise on a topic as homework