

# 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](http://www.jct.ie) and the template is available on the PDST website [www.pdst.ie](http://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