

# 5 SIMPLE ANTICIPATORY SETS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

*At the beginning of a unit or lesson, it's important to have students complete a short activity to pique their interest and build prior knowledge. The anticipatory set refers to an activity to focus the attention of the class to get ready for the lesson that will follow. Students will love it that whatever cool thing you do at the start of class ends up meaning something later on in the lesson. Research has proven that using an anticipatory set helps students learn better and retain more information.*



## KEEP IT VISUAL

*Use something that students can visualize that gets them interested in the topic such as a short video, a photograph, or just having them close their eyes and visualize what something looks like.*



## KEEP IT FACTUAL

*Write 3-8 statements or questions on the whiteboard for students to predict the answers (T/F) at the beginning of a unit. Another option is to have one question or statement each day like a "Question of the Day" method. To save paper have students write them in their notebooks each day and then answer them. These questions or statements should be connected to the essential questions or standards.*



## KEEP IT MYSTERIOUS

*Everyone loves a good mystery, and this method is sure to surprise. Place an artifact, photograph, vocabulary word, riddle, or other item related to the lesson in a box or large envelope. Introduce the mystery box at the beginning of class. Give the students a few hints or clues about what it is being careful not to give away too much information. You want to give them just enough information to make them curious. After the lesson is complete, come back together as a class to figure out and reveal the mystery item.*



## KEEP IT SENSORY

*Using the five senses is a unique strategy that students will love. With a little bit of planning, this is sure to captivate student's interests. The key here is to think outside the box to figure out what you can use as a sensory stimulus that is related to the lesson at hand. Think about unique smells, tastes, textures, sights, or sounds, that are linked to this lesson*



## KEEP IT REAL

*Present a real problem in the world, your community, or school. Ask students to brainstorm how to solve the problem. This method must cross over to connect with the lesson at hand.*

**KEEP IT FUN - KEEP IT EASY - KEEP IT MEANINGFUL**