

## Effective Opening Activities

**As you design your opening activities, consider the following questions.**

1. What can pique students' interest for the subject matter to come?
  
2. What do students need to know before they can delve into the lesson?
  
3. How should I inform students of the lesson's context and objective in an understandable way?

**Consider these sample activities for use in the opening.**

- Provocative and compelling questions
- Review of previous lesson
- Images
- Story
- Startling or unexpected statement
- Visuals, graphic organizers, or thinking maps (for example, KWL)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluate the opening against the following checklist.**

- The activity reviews previous learning that is relevant to this lesson.
- The activity is interesting and motivating.
- The activity is tied to students' personal experiences.
- The activity length is reasonable, as long or short as necessary.
- The activity stresses the value of the lesson.
- The activity sets the stage for new learning.

*Source: Adapted from ED491D. (n.d.). Shooting for success! Madelyn Hunter lesson cycle. Accessed at <http://ed491.weebly.com/uploads/8/4/6/1/8461140/anticipatorysets.pdf> on April 30, 2015.*