

ANTICIPATION GUIDE

DESCRIPTION: A series of statements to which students must respond individually before reading the text. Their value lies in the discussion that takes place after the exercise. The teacher's role during discussion is to activate and agitate thought. As students connect their knowledge of the world to the prediction task, you must remain open to a wide range of responses. Draw on what students bring to the task, but remain nondirective in order to keep the discussion moving.

TARGETED GRADE LEVELS: 2nd through 12th

MAJOR FOCUS: Comprehension
Before, During and After Reading

PROCEDURES: Anticipation guides may vary in format but not in purpose. In each case, the readers' expectations about meaning are raised before they read the text.

Analyze the material to be read. Determine the major ideas-implicit and explicit-with which students will interact

Write those ideas in short, clear declarative statements. These statements should in some way reflect the world in which the students live or about which they know. Therefore, avoid abstractions whenever possible

Put these statements in a format that will elicit anticipation and prediction.

Discuss the students' predictions and anticipations before they read the text selection.

Assign the text selection. Have the students evaluate the statements in the light of the author's intent and purpose.

Contrast the readers' predictions with the author's intended meaning.

The following is an example of an anticipation guide for Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

Anticipation Guide
Hamlet

Directions: On the continuum in front of each of the numbers, place an "x" that indicates where you stand in regard to the statement that follows. Be prepared to defend and support your opinions with specific examples. After reading the text, compare your opinions on those statements with the author's implied and/or stated messages.

Agree Disagree

- 1. Families generally have a member's best interests in mind.
- 2. Having a clear goal, and the ambition to achieve it, is honorable.
- 3. Power eventually corrupts the people who have it.
- 4. Revenge is the only way to gain true justice.
- 5. A person's immoral choices can come back to haunt him/her.
- 6. One must take a stand against injustice, even if the personal cost is great.
- 7. A person has to confront death in order to understand life's meaning.
- 8. Moral courage is more difficult to accomplish than physical courage.
- 9. Evil often spirals out of control.