



# The Power of Prior Knowledge: Unlocking Learning for All

## Essential Questions:

1. What **prior knowledge** would students need to know, or be reminded of, to access your curriculum (lesson plan, reading materials, unit of study, textbook, etc.)?
2. How can you make prior knowledge activation **student centered**? For example, what ways can you find to make it directly connected to your student's life experiences and/or current beliefs?
3. What strategies will you use to ensure all students are "**lifting the weights**" throughout the prior knowledge activation (think-pair-share? Always write first? Small group discussions? Students interviewing each other on a given idea or topic? Etc.)?

## A few types of prior knowledge strategies:

- KWL Chart
- Anticipatory guides
- A demonstration
- Pictures, music, videos that students can directly respond to
- Thought provoking questions
- Quick writes
- Poems
- Predictions
- Venn Diagrams
- Advanced Organizers

## When to activate prior knowledge:

- Start of a lesson
- New unit
- Beginning of a book chapter
- Textbook reading
- Content specific vocabulary
- New themes, main concepts, or new ideas that will be in the lesson

For innovative organisations who want to continually inspire and re-inspire themselves for the important work they do for our world, Dr. DeJean's programs will help your team reach optimal potential.

Unlike traditional professional development, Dr. DeJean doesn't just help participants become more effective professionally: he helps them connect to why they do their work so they can reconnect to their greater purpose, support their wellbeing and renew their inspiration.