

DR. RACHEL SCHECHTER



Activate Engagement

Tips from Learning Sciences to
Spark Deep Learning

#3 Elicit Surprise

TIP #3



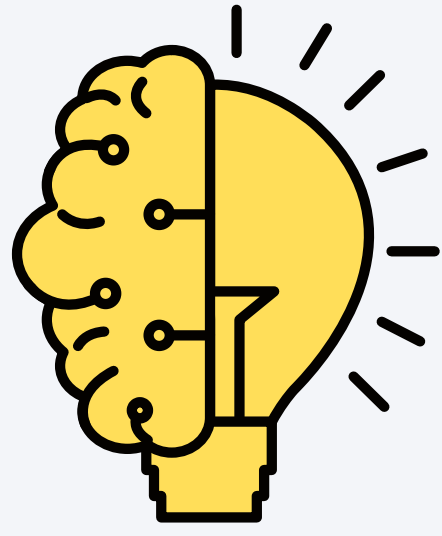
ELICIT SURPRISE

Example Assignment

Chose a story starter and spend the next 20 minutes drafting or outlining a creative story.

Activate Engagement by Eliciting Surprise

Every few minutes, pull a prop out of a bag and challenge students to incorporate the unexpected item into their story.



THE SCIENCE

Surprise heightens emotions and alerts our brains that something unexpected is happening, so pay attention.

PATTERN + SURPRISE= FUEL

Storytelling may have predictable elements. Adding something unexpected heightens our emotions and draws in our attention.

All college students may become pregnant or love someone who is pregnant one day. When reviewing prenatal development, the professor dressed up and brought in lots of props to create surprise and drama about fetal poisons that would be remembered years or decades later.

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CONTACT US

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