Suggested activities to introduce a topic and activate prior knowledge using technology

Previewing a Topic

"Previewing is a strategy that readers use to recall prior knowledge and set a purpose for reading. It calls for readers to skim a text before reading, looking for various features and information that will help as they return to read it in detail later.

According to research, previewing a text can improve comprehension (Graves, Cooke, & LaBerge, 1983, cited in Paris et al., 1991)."

Source: Athena Kashyap & Erika Dyquisto City College of San Francisco via ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative - Link

How?
Create a list of words from the text or about the topic that will be relevant to the whole sequence. Prepare questions to engage in discussion about the words and concepts, to pique students' curiosity and activate their prior knowledge.

Watch the tutorial "Using a word cloud tool to preview a topic" - 2 min 31 s

Video script

Strategies developed by students
- Predicting
- Activate prior knowledge
- Inferencing

Frontloading Vocabulary

"Frontloading vocabulary is a teaching strategy that involves introducing and teaching key vocabulary words before a lesson or unit. This technique is designed to help students become familiar with important terminology and concepts before they encounter them in context, which can improve their understanding and retention of the material."
Source: ChatGPT

How?

Before reading a text or introducing a topic, students are presented with a list of key or challenging words and expressions from the text.

- Students can regroup the vocabulary into categories (preset by the teacher or created by students) in order to preview the topic and activate prior knowledge.
- A variation is to have students imagine what the text will be about based on the keywords.
- Key vocabulary can be organized alphabetically and available for students to refer to.

<u>Look at an example</u>

<u>Watch the tutorial</u> "Using Wooclap to frontload vocabulary" - 3 min 42s

Video Script

Strategies developed by students
- Predicting
- Activate prior knowledge
- Inferencing

Anticipation Guide

"An anticipation guide is a strategy that is used before and after reading. It can activate students' prior knowledge and build curiosity about a new topic as well as evaluate how their perception of understanding of a topic has changed after reading or learning more about it. Students receive a list of statements related to a topic." S*ource: AdLit*

How?

Students receive a list of statements related to a topic. They determine if these are true/false or whether they agree/disagree with them.

The goal is to activate prior knowledge about the topic, stimulate interest and set the stage prior to reading the text. Time is taken to discuss the statements and clarify the purpose for reading the text.

<u>Look at an example</u>

<u>Watch the tutorial</u> "Using Edpuzzle as an Anticipation Guide" - 2 min 33 s

Video Script

<table>
<tr><td align="center">Strategies developed by students</td></tr>
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- Activate prior knowledge
- Inferencing
- Take risks