

An **Anticipation Guide** is a strategy that is used before reading a text to activate students' prior knowledge and build curiosity about a new topic. Before reading a text, students respond to several statements that challenge or support their preconceived ideas about key concepts in the text. Using this strategy stimulates students' interest in a topic and sets a purpose for exploring the text. Anticipation guides can be revisited after reading a text to evaluate how well students understood the material and to correct any misconceptions. Typically, I have students fill in the anticipation guide and then set up the classroom for philosophical chairs. I will read out one of the statements and students will move to the side of the classroom that corresponds to their answer (in this case true or false). Students then have an opportunity to explain their thinking to the opposing side. If students change their mind they can move to the other side of the class.

**Anticipation Guide:** *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau

The True/False statements below will introduce you to **subjects** and **themes** that are presented in the documentary *Walden*. Write true if you agree with the statement, or false if you disagree.

\_\_\_\_\_ Only loners need time away from people.

\_\_\_\_\_ Most people don't have common sense.

\_\_\_\_\_ Some anxiety comes from not understanding the technology we use every day.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other people have suffered in ways very similar to how I have suffered.

\_\_\_\_\_ Nature is important and should be protected at all costs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Most people are unhappy but pretend like everything is ok.

\_\_\_\_\_ Older people have important lessons to teach young people.

\_\_\_\_\_ People would be happier if they had less stuff.

\_\_\_\_\_ The way I live my life effects other people in ways I don't understand.

\_\_\_\_\_ Buying new things makes me feel good.

\_\_\_\_\_ Spending more time outside can help overcome depression.

\_\_\_\_\_ The highest achievements of humankind are art and poetry.

\_\_\_\_\_ In many ways children understand the world better than adults.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a good representation of the human species.

\_\_\_\_\_ The answers to my problems have been written about in a book somewhere.

\_\_\_\_\_ Developing spirituality is not really important in the age of science.

\_\_\_\_\_ Who I am is constantly changing and is sometimes out of my control.