How do I implement this strategy?

1. The teacher provides scholars with a topic, along with 8-15 words or numbers. You can do this in many ways (i.e. writing on the whiteboard, creating a Google Slide, creating an anchor chart). The scholars will speculate and predict how the words relate to the topic.
2. The scholars will discuss and share in small groups, pairs, or as a large class.
3. The scholars can debate their predictions, while the teacher can moderate (not giving any hints or clues).
4. The scholars read a passage or text to get more information.
5. The scholars will review what they have learned and how their thinking has changed from their initial thoughts and predictions.

Priming activities introduce the students to the big idea or concept that you are teaching under. Using a big idea or concept helps students to make connections and think conceptually.

It also helps to provide a frame of reference as to why they are being asked to learn what is being taught, as well as, engage them more deeply in the curriculum.

Application Tips & Tricks

“This strategy can be applied across grade levels and content areas. It works best with expository text, but can be used with stories. In the primary grades, use fewer keywords and read the text aloud while the students listen for them. At other levels, to differentiate instruction, have the whole class discuss the same words before reading; then read different texts on the topic, matched to the students’ reading levels.” (National Urban Alliance, Teaching and Learning Strategies)

Looking for an example?

This is an example using the text, The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family. Click here to access the Key Word Prediction slides that align with The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family.