

Brain Warmers

The use of these activities is an excellent pre-reading “hook”. The activities motivate and activate the background knowledge of readers, helping to prepare them for the process of reading/understanding.

1. Teacher chooses one or two of the following Brain Warmers:

- **Backward Predictions:** Read the ending of a text or story and have students predict the beginning; then read the entire story to see if the students were correct.
- **Debate:** Debate an issue that students will encounter in a text. For example, present the issue on the board, then take the less likely position (devil’s advocate) to spark some argument that will arise in the reading.
- **Read-Alouds:** Read aloud the title and first part of the text and then have students visualize and predict what the rest of the text will be about.
- **Read-Alouds II:** Read aloud and discuss a poem, short story, picture book or quote that deals with the same issue as the textbook/other reading assignment.
- **Reading Reason Vote:** Have students generate reasons to read the specific text after they have done some previewing of the text. Write down their reasons, add any of your own, and then hold a class vote for the top three reasons to read the text.
- **Role Plays:** Have your students role play an event or idea related to a story. Pick a scene or event from the text and have students create or participate with you in a simply role play. (Examples: balancing an equation, Revolutionary War protests, a few poignant lines from a story/play, the water cycle)
- **Show and Tell Pictures and Objects:** Use real items or pictures to prompt discussion or provide good material for a Quick Write activity.
- **Video Clip:** Show a relevant five-minute video clip that provides some background and gets students a little more motivated to read the upcoming text.