

# The Tft Tips Trio

## ACTIVATING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE USE OF LEARNING TARGETS

Often we focus on activating prior knowledge at the start of a lesson by helping students connect new content and ideas with previously taught content and ideas. Today's tips offer ideas on engaging students with learning targets to activate prior knowledge beyond the topic of the day, using a few different Tft practices.

**1 Activate prior Habits of Learning knowledge:** With the learning target displayed, ask learners to identify the verb and to connect the verb with one of the Habits of Learning. Once they've made this connection, students share with a partner about another time they have practiced that same Habit of Learning, and how that prior knowledge might relate to the learning ahead.

**2 Activate God's Story knowledge:** Display the learning target, and ask students to identify a word or a phrase that connects to the Storyline or Deep Hope. This practice might be repeated over time, starting with long-term learning targets that have specific Deep Hope or Storyline language; later students can be challenged to make more nuanced connections with targets that are a little less obvious.

**3 Activate prior Throughline knowledge:** Introduce the learning target and ask learners what Throughline they can connect to the target. Invite students to wonder and brainstorm about what Throughlines they might practice as they learn, then ask them to share what prior knowledge and experiences they already have about those specific Throughlines.

