**Anticipation Guides**

Anticipation Guides are somewhat similar to Three-Level Reading Guides because they present a set of statements for readers to consider before reading text and thus help readers focus their attention on the salient ideas in the text. Anticipation Guides differ from Three-Level Guides because they *begin* with statements from real life that reflect possible conclusions one could draw from the text. Below is an Anticipation Guide developed by Rebecca Siegart (2003) to guide students’ reading and discussion of *Hamlet*.

**Anticipation Guide: *Hamlet***

Part One:

Read each statement and write YES in the blank if you believe the statement and could support it, or put NO in the blank if you do not believe the statement and could not support it. After we read the play, we’ll revisit the statements and see if your answers change.

**After**

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**Before**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. It’s OK to take someone’s life in order to further your own aspirations.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. A person’s actions cannot drive another person literally insane.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. It’s OK to marry your sister-in-law/brother-in-law after your brother/sister dies.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. The quest for revenge can lead people to their demise.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. It’s OK to keep secrets from your spouse.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. A person cannot be held accountable for his actions if he is in a deep depression.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Suicide is never an option, even in the darkest of times.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Loyalty to the government is less important than loyalty to family and/or friends.

Part Two:

Pick one of the questions to explore further. Write a one page response (on the back of this page or on another sheet of paper) supporting why you answered the question the way that you did.

As you can see, the point of the Anticipation Guide is first to engage students’ consideration of real-life application of the themes and issues raised by the text. Their decisions about the statements before reading and then after reading allow them to reconsider these issues based on the next reading. And finally, they are asked to take and support a position on one of the statements. Thus, Part 1 guides students into and through the reading, Part II guides them beyond the reading. Anticipation Guides are easily written for many subject areas.