



MAKE THIS SCHOOL YEAR YOUR BEST EVER

Head back to school with Wisewire!



New users who [create a Wisewire account](#) this month will get \$10 credit to spend on premium playlists, quizzes, and tech-enhanced items in the marketplace. Don't delay! This offer expires August 31.

Breaking the Ice



For many students, the beginning of the school year is a time of both excitement and anxiety as they navigate new academic and social landscapes. Simple “getting to know you” activities, or ice breakers, can help students gain comfort in their new surroundings, form collegial bonds with peers, and feel positive and energized about the school year ahead. Try one or more of these ideas with your students:



Playing Favorites: On the board or on a worksheet, create sentence frames that ask students to identify their favorites, such as their

favorite color, food, animal, sport, instrument, movie, song, book, singer, athlete, place, etc. Have students share their responses in small groups.

- ✔ **A Little Alliteration:** Distribute construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons or colored pencils, and dictionaries. Tell students to choose a word that describes them that also starts with the same letter as their first name (e.g. “Courageous Carly”; “Affable Ahmad”), using a dictionary to help them as needed. Have students create and decorate paper letters of their first initial based on their chosen words. Invite students to present their letters and words to the class, explaining their choices.
- ✔ **Fact or Fiction:** Have students write down two facts and one piece of fiction about themselves. Invite students to share their sentences; then, allow classmates to guess which pieces of information are true and which is untrue.




Determining what your students already know before presenting a new lesson is an important part of any instructional sequence. Perhaps you don't need to review the basics of absolute value and can launch straight into solving absolute value equations. Maybe you were planning to deliver a textbook-based lecture on DNA but consider taking a project-based approach after students express great curiosity about forensics. Pre-assessment is a collection of tools and strategies that can help you glean this type of information. Check out our [Top Three Ways to Jump-Start Pre-Assessment in Your Classroom](#).

This Month's Q&A



Q: What's trending this year in education?

Each year, new technologies and buzzwords take hold in the world of education. Which developments are most worthy of your attention? Here are two that can enrich your teaching and/or provide quick, easy solutions to challenges you face:



Playlists: Educational playlists are similar in concept to musical playlists; instead of your favorite workout mix or calming commuting tunes, educational playlists comprise a collection of moveable, flexible, customizable, and variously aggregable educational resources, such as instruction, readings, website links, videos, animations, interactives, assessment items, or other learning objects. Combined, they may represent a full lesson, series of lessons, or theme (an “album,” if you will); individually, they represent discrete opportunities for learning that may be mixed, matched, and moved as needed to serve a variety of purposes (e.g. lesson opener, homework, enrichment, lesson supplement, formative assessment, etc.). [Wisewire](#) specializes in providing

Carefully-vetted, playlist-ready learning objects for your classroom.

Digital Lesson Tools: On websites like [TES Teach](#), you can create and share your own digital lessons, as well as access the lessons of colleagues from around the world on everything from ratios to Renaissance art. Lessons can include a blend of text, images, and multimedia, all hosted in one convenient, bite-sized presentation. TES Teach also can be used as a tool to organize links, files, videos, or other stimuli, or even a forum for student projects or professional development resources.

Playlists Come to Life



We've brought our playlists to life on TES Teach! A selection of our common core aligned Math and ELA playlists are [available for free](#) on Wisewire, and now those same playlists are prepared in presentation mode for your classroom. [Check them out](#)

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