**Awesome Openings – AKA “Hooks”**

The Elements of a Strong Hook:

* Explains **what** students are about to learn.
* Explains **why** what they are about to learn is important.
* **Connects** what they are about to learn to what they already know
* Explains **how** the learning will take place (the day’s agenda).
* **Captures** students’ interest.

From <https://theonlinepd.wordpress.com/p-3-lesson-planning/creating-a-strong-hook/>

My Favorite Hooks:

* Taste tests
* Costumes and props
* Music
* Unveiling a theme

**Outstanding Endings – AKA “Closures”**

Teachers use closure to:

* Check for understanding and inform subsequent instruction
* Emphasize key information
* Tie up loose ends
* Correct misunderstandings

Students find closure helpful for:

* Summarizing, reviewing, and demonstrating their understanding of major points
* Consolidating and internalizing key information
* Linking lesson ideas to a conceptual framework and/or previously-learned knowledge
* Transferring ideas to new situations

From <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/22-powerful-closure-activities-todd-finley>

My favorite closures:

* Ticket out the door
* Paper Bag skits (more time is required for this closure)
* Throw down a challenge
* Prizes and take-aways
* Connect via social media
* Inspirational story, quote, image, etc. to reinforce main idea