**KWHL**

**Description:**  
*KWHL* Know? Want to know? How will I find out? What did I Learn? is a tool that is used to inform teachers of the knowledge and interest level of their students at the start of a topic or unit and to assist in assessing their learning at the completion.

**How could I use it?**  
- As a process to focus a class or a team.  
- To find out what students know about a topic before or at the start.  
- To find out what students *want* to know.  
- To develop and make explicit a plan of action for finding out what students want to know.  
- For reflection after an assignment.

**Why should I use it?**  
- It is a structured process that informs teachers of what students already know and where their interests and questions lie.  
- It allows students to have ownership of their learning.  
- It promotes higher order thinking.  
- It assists students and teachers in developing a plan of learning action.  
- It assists in teacher and self assessment.

**When should I use it?**  
- At the start or very early in a new topic or unit to ask the ‘Know?’ ‘Want to Know?’ and ‘How will I find out questions?’  
- At the completion of the topic or unit to reflect upon what each student has learnt.
How do I use it?

- Give students a large piece of paper divided into two sections. The topic or unit is written at the top.

- The top section has ‘What do I Know?’ on it. The lower section has ‘What do I Want to Know?’

- Students can work alone, in pairs or small groups to answer these questions.

- The responses can be discussed as a class to discover what the knowledge base and interests of the class are. Alternatively, the teacher can review and summarise the responses. The students’ responses provide a focus for the development and teaching of the topic or unit.

- A second sheet of paper should be used to develop a learning plan in the topic or unit. This can be developed as a whole class, in small groups or individually in consultation and discussion with the teacher.

- At the conclusion of the topic or unit students respond to the question ‘What have I learnt?’ They use their responses to the earlier questions to evaluate the extent to which their knowledge has been increased and whether what they wanted to know has been achieved.