

**KWL – what you KNOW / what you WANT to learn / what you LEARNED**

Even if you think you know nothing about a topic, chances are you know something that will help you understand what you're about to read. Thinking about prior knowledge and what you want to learn helps you understand and remember what you read.

- Choose a topic you need to read about
- Brainstorm – list everything you know about the topic
- What do you want to know? Look at what you already know and fill in the gaps.
- Use an organizer like this one to record your ideas.

You've just been asked to write a review of the film *Reservoir Dogs*. Here is an example of responses using KWL:

What I know	What I want to know	What I learned
Quentin Tarantino directs	Was this his first film?	Yes, premiered in 1992
Steve Buscemi was Mr. Pink	Who played Mr. White?	Harvey Keitel
	What types of reviews did it receive?	
Cult classic	Who was influenced by this film?	
	Was it banned?	
	Is it still considered controversial?	

Students may use the following form to practice KWL:

What I know	What I want to know	What I learned