

Planning for Pitfalls

We've all planned lessons that we thought were going to be great, but then we get into it and realize it's not going down the way we thought!

So what can you do if..

- You suddenly realize the students do not have the requisite background necessary for the lesson plan?
- Your technology isn't working?
- Your students HATE the activity
- Someone's having a bad day, and it's causing a lot of disruption
- You don't have the right materials
- You don't have enough students in attendance
- You have too many students in attendance

The best offense is a great defense.

Think about the **issues you have encountered in the past**, and make a list of them.

How would you handle these situations if they come up again?

A great strategy is to have back pocket activities handy. A back pocket activity is an extra activity that you have ready just in case you need to bail on the planned lesson.

The ideal back pocket activity will:

- Require little or no prep
- Be easy to set up
- Be something you have the materials for
- Entertain the participants
- Be one you are familiar and comfortable with

Don't get caught with your pockets empty! When stress hits it's hard to think creatively, so keep a little memo notebook handy and jot down your favorite activities when you are calm. The less you have to think on your feet, the better you will be able to keep your focus on your students' needs in the moment.