

## Setting up for Success – Brief Guide

This unit makes use of the [Visual Ranking Tool](#). Familiarize yourself with the tool and its related materials, such as the [tutorial](#). Follow the steps below to set up the workspace prior to working with your students.

### Set up the Project

Build the project in the [Visual Ranking Teacher Workspace](#) following the steps provided:

- Project Name: Mystery Elements
- Project Description: We have been reading many different mystery stories. We have seen a variety of crimes or lost items, different detective or sleuths, a menagerie of characters all of whom have added to the outcome and enjoyment of the story. It is now your job to decide if there is any one element that is essential to creating a compelling mystery story.
- Prompt for students: *What elements are most important to create a mystery that will hold your reader's attention? Why have you chosen to rank the elements in this order?*
- List to sort: You may list up to 16 items for students to sort. Students will create this list for you during the pre-writing brainstorming.
- Assign teams to the project.

### Tips for Success

As students are using the tool, monitor individual team discussions and decision making-processes, and ask a variety of questions to facilitate learning and use of higher-order thinking skills. The following are example prompts that will help students to question, analyze and support their thinking:

- *Why have you chosen to put the items in the order you have?*
- *Why do you think certain elements are especially important and others not so important to a story's success?*
- *What makes a story compelling?*
- *Why do people like different things in a mystery?*