Holding Their Attention

Basically Why Being Funny and Weird is Important

Nicholas Benson

2nd Year JET
What’s your situation?

• Do you identify yourself as a “funny teacher” or are you more serious? Do you feel as though your style is effective?

• Are there aspects of classroom management that you struggle with (behavioral, time management, flow, non-participation, etc)?

• What is the biggest roadblock you have to a fun class for everyone?
Research ‘n Stuff

Psychological trials have studied the effects of humor on education, and the findings are largely in agreement:

1) Humor used related to your educational materials increases retention significantly.
2) Humor used in off-task situations has no effect on retention.
3) It’s possible to use humor and sarcasm *too much*, in which case it reduces student retention.
4) **Humor dramatically improves attention and interest in the teacher/subject matter.**

![A fancy graph](image-url)
What are your mundane moments?

• Improving the “boring/tape-recorder” time in the classroom solves 2 problems:
  • It improves retention of (often) necessary material
  • It keeps students who have difficulty focusing from zoning out or distracting the rest of the class.
  • (bonus objective = you having fun)

• Common Examples:
  • Vocabulary (music, rhythm, and gestures)
  • Warming up conversations (memory challenge, gestures, picking on a student)
  • Getting your materials together/on the board

This was my life my first few weeks of classes…
Thank you for sitting through my boring slideshow