

Holding Their Attention

Basically Why Being Funny and Weird is Important

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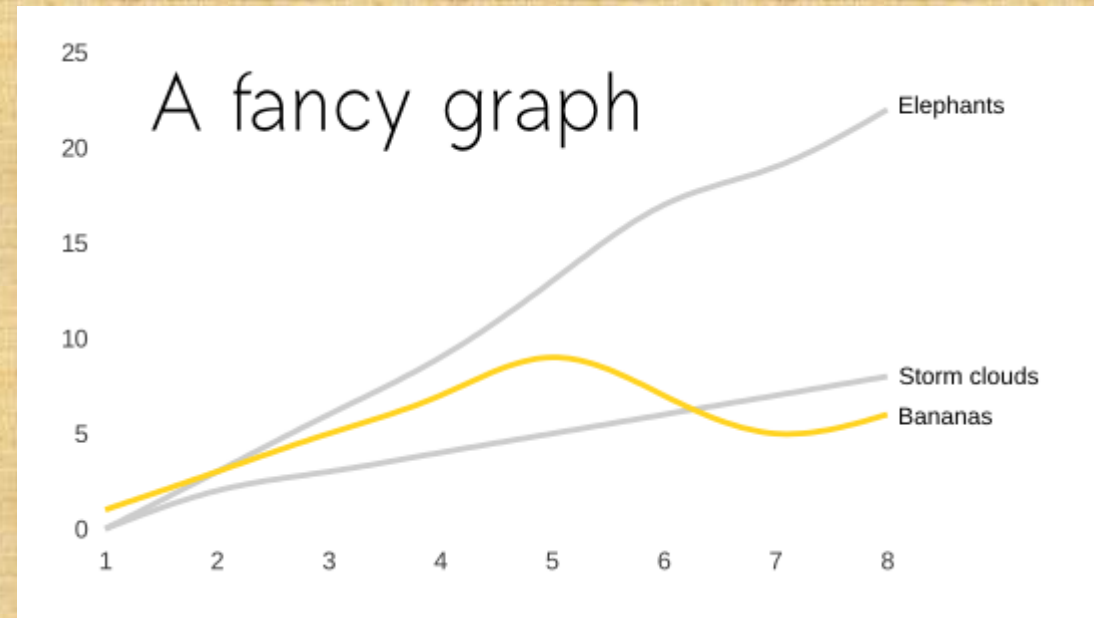
2nd Year JET

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

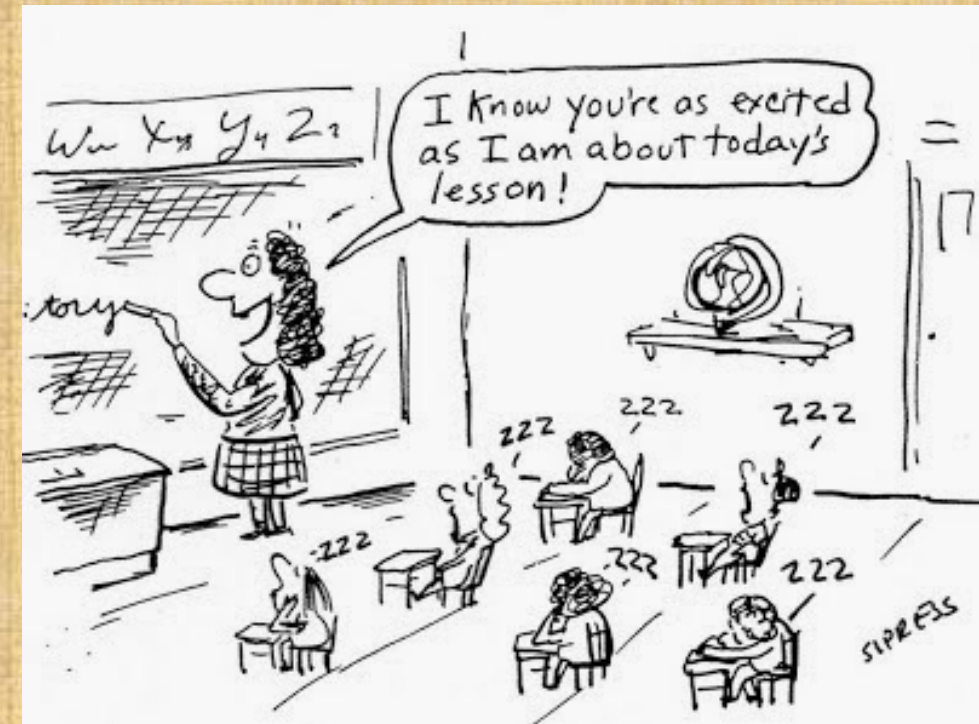
Psychological trials have studied the effects of humor on education, and the findings are largely in agreement:



- 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.**

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