

## Ideas for using humor in your classroom

### Kim Seymour Region 4

#### Some ideas:

- Use some humorous material on your class syllabus. A cute cartoon, clipart, or a funny saying.
- Tell a funny story about yourself. This definitely will create a connection between you and your students. If you have time it can also help to allow a student to share a story as well.
- To get your classes attention, consider using a funny noise.
- Slapstick humor – I was NEVER really good at this.
- Use an opening joke, riddle, or a visual pun
  - A joke can motivate students, can be a release valve for stress, and can trigger a fun attitude toward learning
  - A visual pun can open the students mind to divergent thinking.
  - A joke can change a person's mood because of the cognitive work needed to "get" the joke.
- Impression of an actor or actress
- Create a Top Ten List –like the ones David Letterman uses.
- Use humor on your tests
- Use a humorous question.
- Funny saying to make a point. My favorite, "Never miss a good chance to shut our mouth." (My father)
- Games
- Use a video clip to set up a lesson. Watch twice to check for questionable content!

#### Guidelines:

- **NEVER** use humor to embarrass, ridicule, or otherwise harm a student.
- Humor does **NOT** work in every situation.
- **Get to know your students. Learn those names quickly.**
- Laugh with your students and don't be afraid to laugh at yourself. This will help to build those relationships. When you laugh at yourself when you make a mistake it empowers your learners.
- Connect your humor to your material or lesson.
- Try to joke with everyone...no favorites.
- Include students and have a joke or cartoon board or have them bring in a joke to share with the class.
- Use practical humor. Keep those good and appropriate internet jokes. Remember, it is not so much the joke, but more the teacher shows a sense of humor and is prepared to share with their students.
- Keep it appropriate to the level and ability of the students. Make it intellectually challenging.
- Consider your own personality and presentation preferences when planning to use humor.
- Practice, practice, practice . . . friends and family will let you know what is and is not funny.
- **BE ENTHUSIASTIC!!** The right attitude is the key to making work fun!