



Faculty News You Can Use

Winter 2004

A collaborative effort of the Academic Support, Instructional Technology, and Media Library

Fantasia is the first time Mickey Mouse ever has eyes with pupils.

http://ihigh.com/drama/factoids/factoids_disney.html

TIPS FOR USING HUMOR IN THE CLASSROOM

From Ronald A. Berk (Professor of Biostatistics & Measurement and Assistant Dean for Teaching at the School of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University)

WHY USE HUMOR?

Decreases anxiety & stress, improves student-faculty connection, increases student engagement and attention to the material and can be used to reiterate important points.

HOW TO USE IT?

In class to refocus attention:

Why is there no such thing as a rhetorical answer?

On a test:

Which of the following expressions is an oxymoron?

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Amtrak schedule | c. athletic scholarship |
| b. express mail | d. legal brief |

In notes, syllabi, case studies:

WARNING: This course should not be taken for the medical treatment of insomnia

To make a point:

The Top 10 reasons to take a thorough case history:

10. Your attorney is just fussy that way.
9. Your photographic memory has run out of film.
- 8...

SUGGESTIONS FOR HUMOR:

One-liners, disclaimers, cartoons, song lyrics, silly names for case studies (Sy Attica; Ima Weiner), Top 10 lists, humorous examples, games. Dr. Berk's books have gazillions of resources for humerus ;) materials.

ADVICE ON HOW NOT TO USE HUMOR

Avoid humor that is offensive by nature through comments on race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, physical disabilities or very sensitive issues. You are a role model for the students. Sarcasm, ridicule or malicious comments are destructive and will cause students to withdraw or harbor resentment. The use of self-effacing, non-targeted or current cultural humor demonstrates that you are confident, secure and approachable.

BERK'S BOOKS TO BORROW FROM CAS

Humor as an instructional defibrillator: Evidence-based techniques in teaching and assessment

Professors are from Mars, students are from Snickers: How to write and deliver humor in the classroom and professional presentations

The average person generates 600 times their adult weight in garbage during their lifetime.

<http://www.recycle.siu.edu/factoids.htm>

(Source-50 Things You Can Do To Save The Earth)

Developing a daily teaching plan-Interview with Russ Ebbets

Russ has applied a coaching tool to make efficient use of his teaching time in lab. He uses a daily teaching plan that allots a specified time for review of previous skills and demonstrating new techniques. Class time is planned to ensure that learning objectives for each class are defined and met. Assists get these daily plans at the beginning of the trimester and in the event of Russ' absence, he can be sure the goals are met.

Structured class time includes breaking the class into smaller groups

with all laboratory faculty working at stations for practicing or learning different skills. Students get to see demonstrations up close and practice with close faculty supervision and feedback.

The modular approach is flexible and effective. Ask Russ for more information.



Accessing Email From Off Campus: <http://www.nycc.edu/exchange>

Many people don't realize they can access their e-mail anywhere that there is an Internet connection via a website. Your Inbox, Sent Messages, Contacts, Calender, etc. are all accessible through that website.

If you are an adjunct faculty member, you are probably already using the website at NYCC. You can view the same information elsewhere (such as at home or while on a trip if you have access to an Internet connection) at <http://www.nycc.edu/exchange>.

If you are a faculty member who has his or her own office computer you most likely use Outlook at work. You can see the same information elsewhere at <http://www.nycc.edu/exchange>. Outlook at work has more "bells and whistles" but the same information can be seen via either method. (There are times when I have Outlook open at my desk but I want to see an e-mail, attached file of my calendar and I can open it via another computer at the same time to see the information I need.)

If you don't know how to access your e-mail from off campus through the Internet, please contact Liz Larzelere and she will be happy to show you the process.

Need something **converted**, for instance kilometers to miles or Fahrenheit to Celcius? How about calculating your body mass index? How many calories do you burn running? Do you want to know how much you would weigh if you were on Mars? :-) Check out this site with links to handy converters and calculators. Explore - there is sure to be something here for everyone!

<http://www.onlineconversion.com/>

