

## **Teaching with Humor: The Secret to Make Students be Engaged in Learning**

Students are now learning at their classroom as in-persons classes are required. The challenge, aside from ensuring their mental health intact, is how they will be proactively engaged in class discussion.

The secret of great educators would be the use of humor in class discussion as cited in Edutopia blog post in 2014. As observed, most of the students are addicted to memes that boost their dopamine to be happy. This perhaps would be the reason why they are more addicted to social media as they can get happiness in using such.

As teachers, they can use humor to stimulate the interest of their learners. In fact, it has already been proven by various researches that humor makes students less stress and pressure during their learning.

The study of Schmidt (2013) shows that students learn better with humor. The following salient points are giving emphasized on the aforementioned study: (1) through the use of humor in learning discussion, students learn better and able to recall all the previous lessons discussed; (2) students can absorb the discussion and highlighted information in class discussion quickly; (3) the information has retained longer at the mind of students; and, (4) reduce anxiety in learning major subjects particularly Science and Mathematics.

It is indeed, that the use of humor has effective ways to facilitate proactive learning among the students. It guaranteed good learning conditions and establish better learning outcomes as the students' confidence in learning the particular subject has elevated. This would be a better practice nowadays especially when the students will be adjusting once again to their learning.

However, the teachers should be careful in using of humor inside the classroom or during the teaching-learning process. There are humors that are off-the-limits in which teachers must be sensitive enough in using humorous situations. Not all humors are good particularly if it attacks individual differences or students' related concerns. It is advisable therefore that teachers should be mindful from the use of humor as it sometimes could create students' withdrawal in learning because they got hurt. If that is the case, this could be counterproductive in the delivery of high quality instruction among the learners.

Now, the concern that teachers might be is how they can apply humor to their everyday teaching-learning process.

There are many ways that teachers can use humor inside the classroom in a way that the teachers should not be looked like a clown. They should not require to be funny or comedic at all costs. The use of humor means that giving a warm mood inside the classroom in which students could not be bored and listen attentively in class, or even much better proactively engage themselves in the class discussions.

Here are some of the humorous things to use to engage students actively in learning based on observation and experiences as a teacher based on the study of Stanfield (n.d), and Garner (2008).

The first one is the use of games. Students are now addicted to mobile games. Admit it or not, teachers are having difficulty in getting the attention of students as their attention and eyes are fixed on mobile games that they are playing. Even during the class discussion, teachers have caught their students using their mobile phones. The best technique would be, create learning games that students will have to drop their phones as they became more interested with the learning games provided to them. They probably would not forget the fun things they have experienced during the class activity they experienced and they could even remember more about the topics or information being discussed.

The second one is the use of personal anecdotes or stories. Students love stories about their teachers or anything. The proof of it is that they are more addicted to Netflix, foreign series, and wattpad just to get stories from fictional characters as it became a form of escapade on their part. It sustains and builds their fantasies. Take advantage of it by relaying their lessons through stories that they can even also learned about life lessons and how they would be able to apply the learning topics in real-life situations. In this sense, students make feel that they could relate to the topics being discussed and it stimulates their imagination and try to connect with their own situations.

The next one is music and body movement. From time-to-time, make your students actively do some physical stretched but of course, they should observe proper health protocols. The teachers can use music to relax the mind of students and use some energetic while learning. From hours of sitting, teachers may use music and some body movements that stretched the body of students after hours of sitting. In this way, the boredom that they have felt would be vanished and gone.

There are still array of activities that can use to make humor alive inside the classrooms. The given are just some of the few suggested to make learning fun. As the school is now open, teachers can try the above activities that they can use to make a proactive learning environment.

As teachers, making the class happy is absolutely the goal as it follows better academic performances and provide opportunity to improve students mental health being.

## **References**

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