

Bring Your **C.R.A.Y.O.N.S.** to Class:

Humor &  in the Online
Classroom



Yolanda Harper, Ph.D.

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Bring Your **C.R.A.Y.O.N.S.** to Class:

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Classroom

Hello!
WELCOME
I'm *very* **GLAD** 
you're here!

Images retrieved from <https://hopbimiz.com/products/smiley/> and http://worldartstime.com/glad-you-are-here-clipart.html#gai_post_54132_glad-you-are-here-clipart-1.jpg

Images retrieved from <https://giphy.com/gifs/happy-emoji-gif-ckfJmpfUQaYVi> and <https://events.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/2018/mad-about-music/new-plymouth>

Bring Your C.R.A.Y.O.N.S. to Class: Humor and Music in the Online Classroom

Welcome

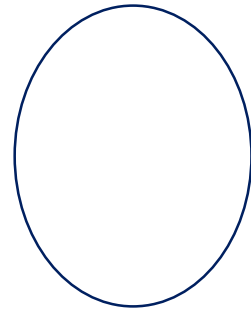


Yolanda Harper, Ph.D.

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Welcome to this session



Reflection Question



Which introduction is most like your welcome announcements?

Bring Your **C.R.A.Y.O.N.S.** to Class:
Humor & Music in the Online Classroom

Hallo!
WELCOME
I'm very GLAD you're here!

Images retrieved from <https://giphy.com/gifs/happy-emoji-gif-48trpRtKwV> and https://www.istock.com/photo-image/Welcome_gif_401436888.html

Bring Your C.R.A.Y.O.N.S. to Class: Humor and Music in the Online Classroom

Welcome



Yolanda Harper, Ph.D.
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Welcome to this session





What color are *your* C.R.A.Y.O.N.S.?

C
R
A
Y
O
N
S

C
R
A
Y
O
N
S



What color are *your* C.R.A.Y.O.N.S.?

- C creativity
- R relationships
- A academic expertise
- Y yourself
- O openness
- N innovation
- S *[strategic]* silliness

- C comedy
- R respect
- A authenticity
- Y yeastiness (vitality; exuberance; energy)
- O optimism
- N novelty
- S specializations

Session Outline 1



Session Outline 2

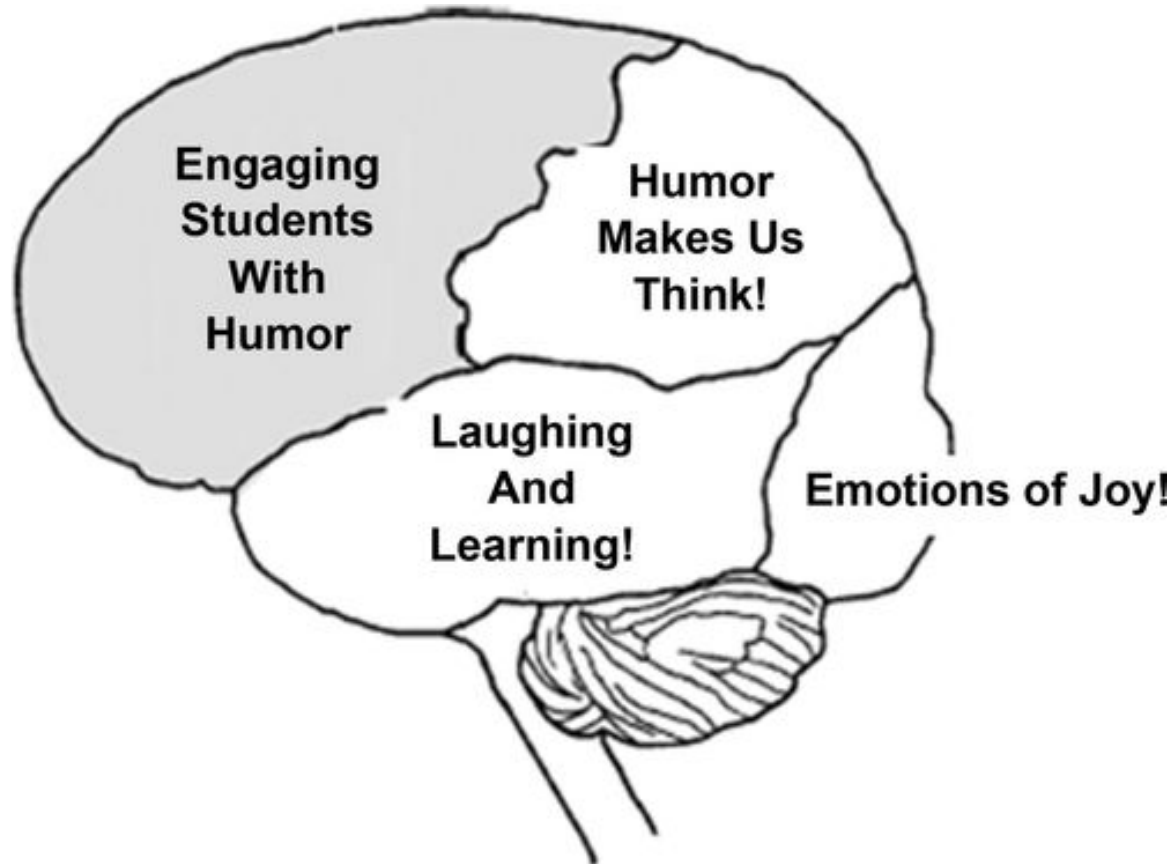
- Discuss some of the key reasons for using humor and music in the online classroom
- Discuss ways instructors can make standardized courses more engaging.
- Share creative uses of humor and music to encourage students and deepen their learning.



➤ To improve student learning



Humor



- creates conditions conducive to learning
- engages students
- encourages them to think
- promotes learning
- serves as a bridge between educators and students

Lujan, H. L., & DiCarlo, S. E. (2016). Humor promotes learning!. *Advances in Physiology Education*, 40(4), 433-434. <https://doi.org/10.1152/advan.00123.2016>

Appropriate and timely humor can

(Baker & Taylor, 2012; James, 2004; Lujan & DiCarlo, 2016; McCabe, Sprute, Underdown, 2017)

1. Create a supportive learning environment
2. Enhance students' interest & attention
3. Enhance students' enjoyment in the learning process; enhance motivation
4. Increase divergent thinking skills of students
5. Improve the quality and amount of learning
6. Enhance students' positive attitudes toward the subject content
7. Reduce student stress & anxiety
8. Build relationships between instructors and students



"Relax, this is just a word association test to see how well you might work with others. Now, when I say 'cat', you say ...?"



WHAT

do you use?

- **Announcements**
- **Instructor Guidance**
- **Discussions**
- **Emails**
- **Ashford Café**
- **Gradebook**
- **Other: (e.g., online chats, live conversations)**



1. Written anecdotes or jokes
2. Humorous images (e.g., emojis, avatars)
3. Humorous animated images (gifs)
4. Cartoons/comics
5. Funny videos
6. Your own mini-lectures with embedded humor
7. Music videos
8. Pre-recorded music (mp3s)
9. Your “live” voice singing
10. Other: Please specify in the chat



*"No, Johnny, it's 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away' - *not 'an app a day.'"* (Quintanar, David)

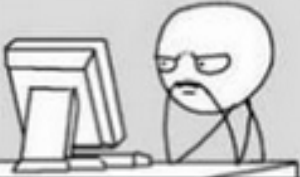



OMG! Say it's not so!

Yolanda Harper

All Sections

Visual Humor

Posting on Facebook:	Writing an essay for school:
Proofread status five to ten times.	Proofread essay exactly zero times.
	
You know it's true.	
facebook.com/grammarly	Grammarly.com

You can get to Grammarly and the Writing Center by clicking on the [Writing Center & Library link](#) in our course.

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Shatz, M. A., & LoSchiavo, F. M. (2006). Bringing life to online instruction with humor. *Radical Pedagogy*, 8(2), 8

Using humor to **reinforce** specific course content.



Frank LoSchiavo, Ph.D. incorporates a running feature, called **Frank's Rants**, into lecture modules.

Shatz, M. A., & LoSchiavo, F. M. (2006). Bringing life to online instruction with humor. *Radical Pedagogy*, 8(2), 8

Home

Announcements

Syllabus

Modules

Grades

Course Policies

Writing Center &
Library

Course Re-
sources

Discussions

Quizzes

▼

Using humor to **preview** specific course content.

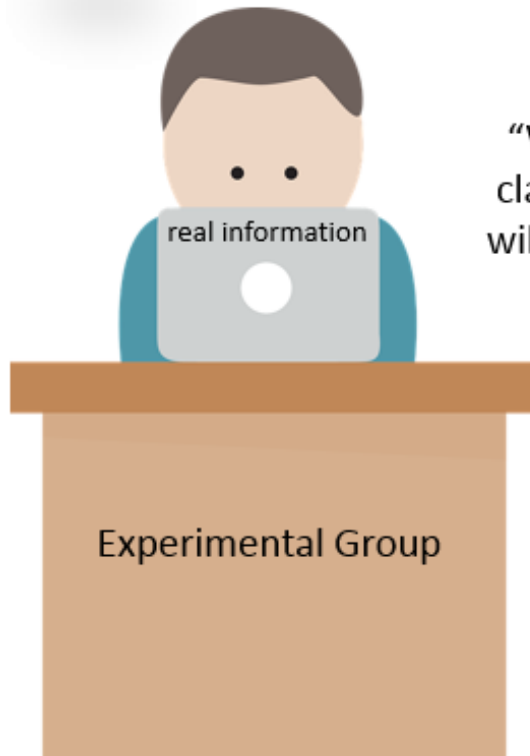


Welcome to Research Methods

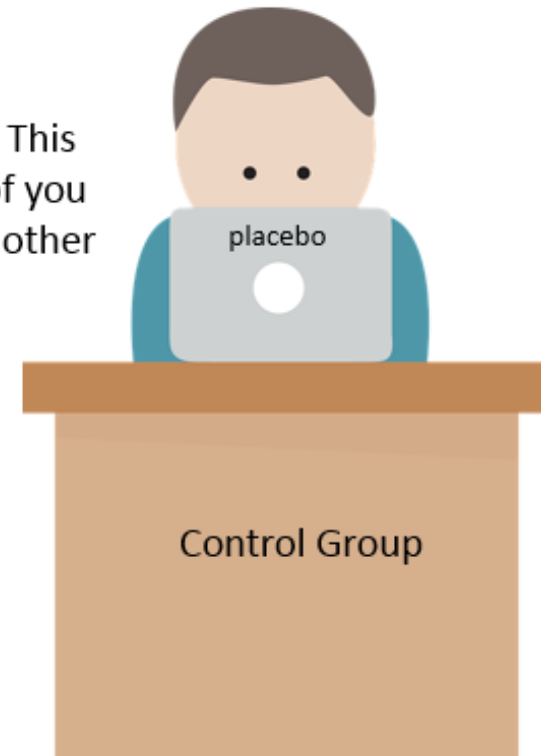
John Doe

May 11 at 1:07pm

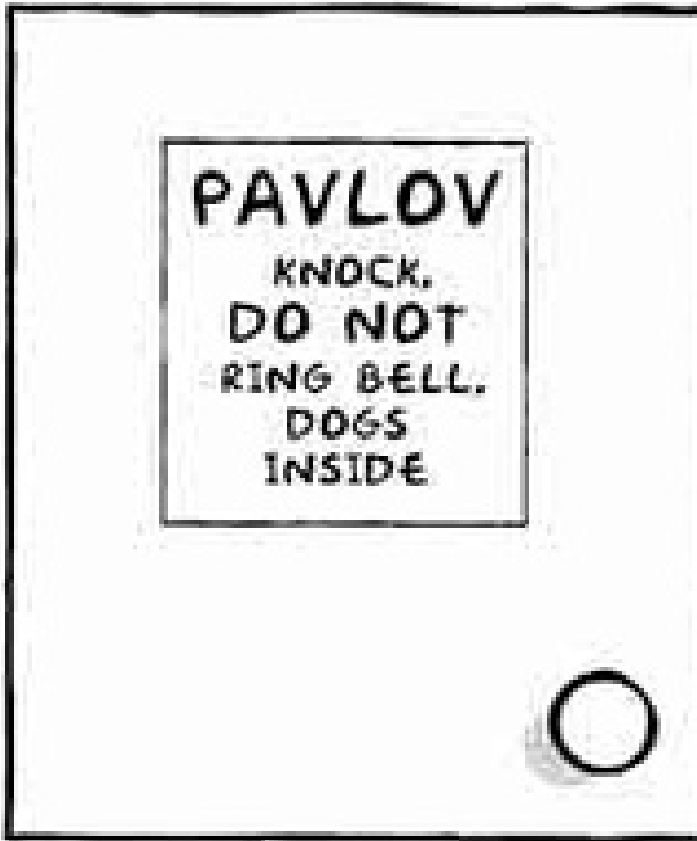
17 / 17



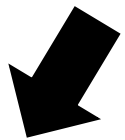
“Welcome to Research Methods. This class will be an experiment—half of you will get real information while the other half will get a placebo.”



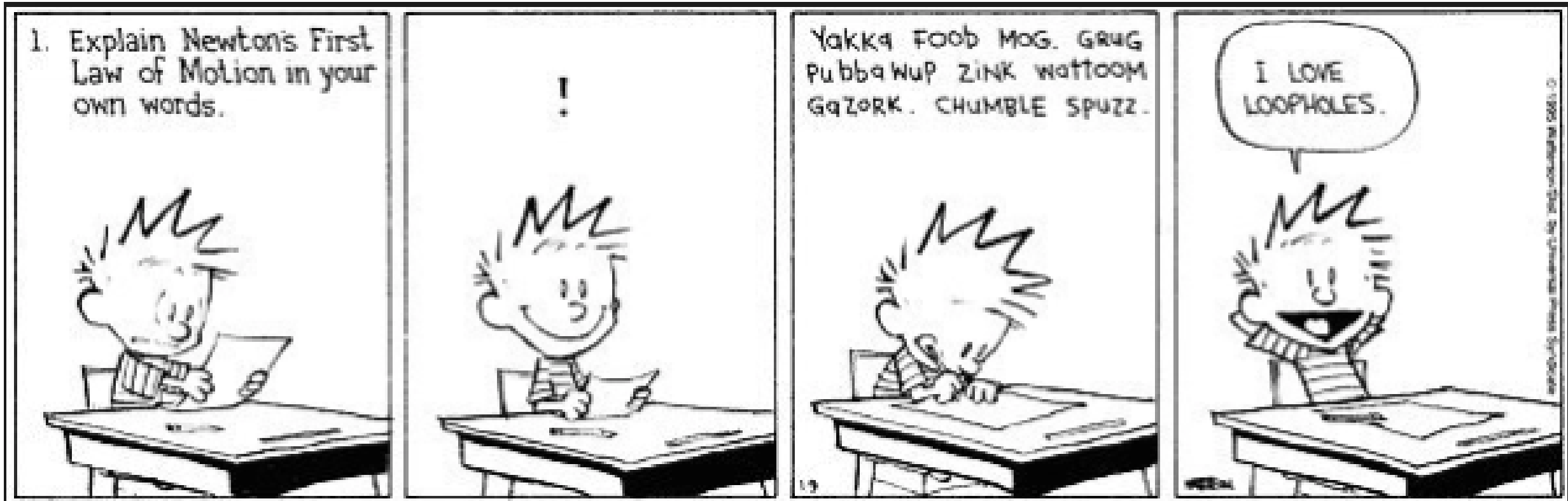
(Based on examples by Shatz & Coilv, 2008 and Shatz & LoSchiavo, 2006)



Correct



Using humor to **reinforce** specific course content.



Using humor to **lighten the mood** when introducing new content or to **reinforce** a course expectation.

Videos of Speakers Using Humor



How racism made me funny | Ruven Govender | TEDxMacquarieUniversity



Protecting and Interpreting Deaf Culture | Glenna Cooper | TEDxTulsaCC

Click to SUBSCRIBE to the TEDx channel!



How do you define yourself? | Lizzie Velasquez | TEDxAustinWomen



[Redacted name]

Yesterday



Dr. Harper,

Lizzy has a rare syndrome that causes "intrauterine growth retardation, birth before 40 weeks gestation, and generalized lack of subcutaneous fat," (Passarge et al., 2016, para. 6). She is not able to gain weight and has not fat in her body.

I can never wrap my mind around hate. And what that stranger wrote to Lizzy is pure hate. There is not reason for it at all. I like how she list all the benefits of her syndrome. She points out the best instead of focusing on the worst.

I love her sense of humor.

The audience looks so engaged to what she is saying. It is great for us to hear experiences of others that are different from our own. I hope people who see this video will learn not judge others just because of how they look.

To answer her question, What defines you? What defines me is not what I look like on the outside. It is not how big I am or what color I am. It is not how short I am or the type of hair I have. It is my personal morals. It is my kind heart and soul. What defines me is how I treat others. It is the love I have to give.

[Redacted name]



Yolanda Harper

5:55pm

Hi 

I appreciate your thoughtful and honest reply--I completely agree: "what that stranger wrote to Lizzy is pure hate." Yes, her sense of humor is inspirational and a testament to her upbringing.

RE: Your answer to the question of what defines you...



beautifully said!



Dr. Harper

Images retrieved from picgifs.com/graphics/wow/ and goldstarpremiumroofing.com/

Images retrieved from picgifs.com/graphics/wow/ and goldstarpremiumroofing.com/

When students use humor



Funny Anecdotes

The example you gave of your son calling all men he saw in public “Da-da” after he learned to call his real dad ‘Da-da’ made me chuckle 😊 -- yes, that is a great example of **assimilation** as described by Piaget.

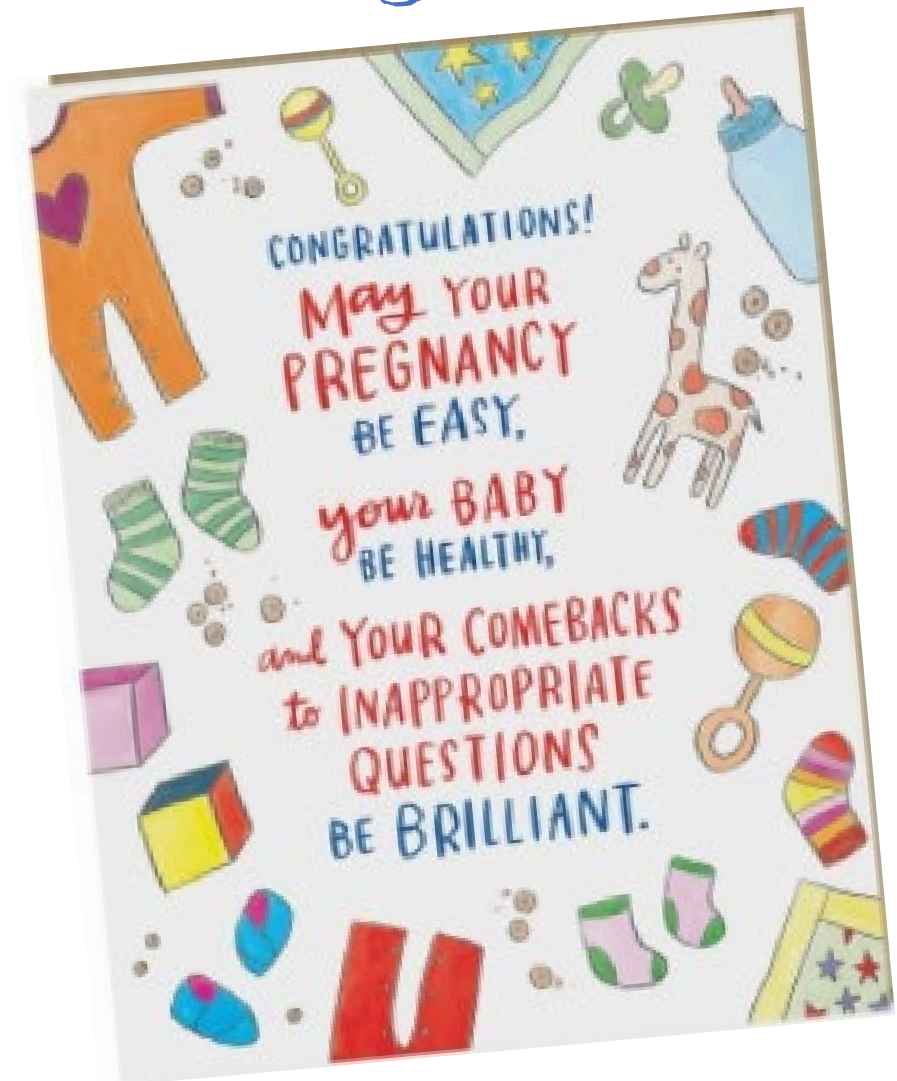
Ha Ha Ha!



Personalized for students



coming soon...





AWESOME JOB!





Cognitive and Affective Engagement

lyrics, melody, rhythm, keys, instruments

Music-driven instructional activities can

(Dunlap & Lowenthal, 2010)



- Humanize, personalize, and energize online courses
- Tap into students' interests, and elicit positive feelings and associations
- Enhance Social Presence
 - What makes you rock? (students share songs that are personally motivating)
 - Soundtrack of your life

Dunlap, J. C., & Lowenthal, P. R. (2010). Hot for teacher: Using digital music to enhance students' experience in online courses. *TechTrends*, 54(4), 58-73.

Personal Soundtrack

1. Have students create & share a **playlist** of six songs:
 - Two representing their past
 - Two representing their present
 - Two representing their planned/hoped for future
2. Students ask questions about the songs to learn why certain songs were selected.



Dunlap, J. C., & Lowenthal, P. R. (2010). Hot for teacher: Using digital music to enhance students' experience in online courses. *TechTrends*, 54(4), 58-73.

Enhancing Cognitive & Teaching Presence

(Dunlap & Lowenthal, 2010)

- To set the tone at the start a class session
- As a transition between units or topics
- Prelude to a learning activity
- Previews and reviews of content
- To illustrate or represent a new topic
- To celebrate the completion of a unit or project
- To reflect a unit or course theme
- **Concept-specific soundtrack.** Instructor presents a course concept and students collect songs that offer insight and perspective on the concept.



Original songs to help students understand complicated computer science concepts


Avoid offensive or explicit language.
Selections should contribute to relaxation, alertness, and openness.

Instructor's Introduction

INSTRUCTOR'S INTRODUCTION

10 Growth Mindset Statements

FIXED MINDSET




What can I say to myself?

INSTEAD OF:

TRY THINKING:

GROWTH MINDSET



<p>I'm not good at this.</p> <p>I'm awesome at this.</p> <p>I give up.</p> <p>This is too hard.</p> <p>I can't make this any better.</p> <p>I just can't do Math.</p> <p>I made a mistake.</p> <p>She's so smart. I will never be that smart.</p> <p>It's good enough.</p> <p>Plan "A" didn't work.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 What am I missing? 2 I'm on the right track. 3 I'll use some of the strategies we've learned. 4 This may take some time and effort. 5 I can always improve so I'll keep trying. 6 I'm going to train my brain in Math. 7 Mistakes help me to learn better. 8 I'm going to figure out how she does it. 9 Is it really my best work? 10 Good thing the alphabet has 25 more letters!
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02:05.52

INSTRUCTOR'S INTRODUCTION

songs on the soundtrack of my life



- We're All in this Together (High School Musical)
- Hello World Groove (Yolanda Harper)
- Dancing on Air (Yolanda Harper)
- La Vida es Un Carnaval (Celia Cruz)
- Vivir Mi Vida (Mark Anthony)
- I Hope You Dance (Lee Ann Womack)
- Bamboo Dance (Orchid)
- The River (Garth Brooks)
- People Loving People (Garth Brooks)
- Many of the works of Vivaldi (The Four Seasons, Violin Concerto in D Minor, Magnificat, Mandolin Concerto, etc.)
- Free (Sam Harris)
- Sokolata (Sarbel)
- Mama Said, "Don't Say 'I do,' if you Don't" (Yolanda Harper & Steve Cobb)
- Find Your Grail (Monty Python)
- I Believe (Terri Strong)
- Old Irish Blessing (Traditional)
- These are the Days (Van Morrison)
- Happy (Pharrell Williams)
- Silver Lining (Kacey Musgraves)
- Unicorn (Orchid)
- On Children (Sweet Honey in the Rock)
- Love in Any Language (Sandi Patty)
- Y'all Come! (Bill Monroe)
- ...so many more in many different languages, from many different time periods...

00:56.37

Instructor's Introduction

All the best to you and yours!



See you in class!

emegen.es

02:09.22



Sep 18, 2018

Dr. Harper,

There is a lot to unpack in your introduction. It is filled with great and thought provoking concepts and inspirations. That, and **I really dig the salsa beat in the background.** Recently we went to a trendy cafe that had a trio playing. There was a man on the piano, a lady playing the acoustic base and another lady who played percussion by either tap dancing or playing cajon. **Watching your video took me back to that memory which is a fond one. I greatly look forward to this course.**



APA Format Challenge in a couple of childhood flashbacks :-D

Yolanda Harper

All Sections

Mar 10 at 12am

6

Hi everyone,

I hope you find this APA Format Challenge fun and entertaining...you'll hear my 4-legged baby singing in the background on one of the slides.



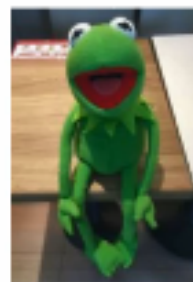
So, who else was a Sesame Street kid with memories of watching Jeopardy with your grandparents (or parents or watch[ed] it yourself)?



APA Format Challenge

Did you ever play this critical thinking game?

Three of these things belong together...
One of these things is not like the others...



Images retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCukDjgCY>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6ke731186Q> and <https://www.etsy.com/item/18-Kermit-Sesame-Street-7-egg-Toys-Muppets-Animal-Doll-Plush-Kids-Birthday-Gift-/173031220048>



01:02.60





APA Format Challenge

APA Format: Which one doesn't belong & why?

References



Planinsec, J., & Pisot, R. (2006). Motor coordination and intelligence level in adolescents. *Adolescence*, 41(164), 667-676.

Planinsec, J., & Pisot, R. (2006). Motor coordination and intelligence level in adolescents. *Adolescence*, 41(164), 667-676.

Gottfredson, L., & Saklofske, D. H. (2009). Intelligence: Foundations and issues in assessment. *Canadian Psychology*, 50(3), 183-195.

Wagner, H. S., Ahlstrom, B., Redden, J. P., Vickers, Z., & Mann, T. (2014). The myth of comfort food. *Health Psychology*, 33(12), 1552-1557.



Images retrieved from <https://www.amazon.com/RoomMates-RMKL481GM-Sesame-Street-Giant/dp/B0037WN8DU> and <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/618126946214872512/>

Video player controls including a play button, a progress bar, a volume icon, and a timestamp of 01:34.16.



CLICK TO COLLAPSE / EXPAND



Mar 12, 2018



Neat little video Doc! I can't relate much to the Sesame Street thing. I'm a bit older but Jeopardy we watch everyday. I like your positive effect! Thanks!




(1 like)



Mar 14, 2018



Hello Dr. Harper, this was fun, thanks to the song. I do remember watching Sesame Street with our son, all the time. With my daughter we had Sesame Street video tapes, which we watched over and over and over.... I use to love watching Jeopardy with both of my grandmothers, and then my mother, and then my wife, daughter and son. Such wonderful memories, music and memories are my stress-busters. 



(1 like)

For the entire class: Saving Grace (Why not to make aging jokes like "old timer's" disease) & 12 Ageist Comments You Never Know are Hurtful and How to Respond to Them

Hi everyone,

This week offers us the opportunity to discuss issues related to awareness, sensitivity, and competence in the areas of Ability, Attractiveness, & Aging.

Let's begin by looking at having a loved one with a neurocognitive disorder such as Alzheimer's as communicated in song. In the story told by this song, the wife has a neurocognitive disorder. **Feel free to share your comments related to the song, working with a family who has a loved one with a neurocognitive disorder, the use of music as a therapeutic tool, etc.**

Also, I don't know if you ever hear people jokingly making comments such as "old-timer's disease" or jokingly associating memory loss with aging, but I have used this video to gently remind them that such jokes may be painful and insensitive for others. **Your thoughts?**



Lately Grace hasn't been herself
And he's noticed the change
Like forgetting friends they have known for years
And misplacing all her things
He'd make a joke; they'd both laugh
And blame it on old age
But it's not funny anymore, she can't remember his name

**But he believes way down deep she still knows who he is.
Forty years of memories just can't disappear like this
The doctors say it's hopeless, her past has been erased
But he'll spend the rest of his life, saving Grace**

Raised five kids on a farmers pay; Vietnam took a son,
But watching Grace live like this is the hardest thing he's done
He sits there by her bed sometimes, while she's fast asleep.
Tells her all about herself, strokes her hair and weeps

(Repeat chorus)

The woman that he's loved for years
Is somewhere trapped in the pain
Tonight he swears she smiled at him and almost spoke his name
**But he believes way down deep
She still knows who he is. Forty years of memories
Just can't disappear like this
The doctors say it's hopeless
Her past has been erased
But he'll spend the rest of his life
Saving Grace**
Lately Grace hasn't been herself

Songwriters: SALLEY, JERRY/WILBURN, AARON
Saving Grace lyrics © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.

from **Week 3 - Discussion 2**



Good evening Dr. Harper,
Saving Grace is a beautiful, sensitive song. It's hard on the family when this strong, lively, fun loving person slowly loses their ability to do ordinary, everyday activities.

My grandmother had Alzheimer's; the last few years were the hardest. She had always been the family matriarch and my rock. A person with a Neurocognitive disorder like Alzheimer's is lost even though they are right in front of you. We were so close; I was convinced that even though she starting forgetting everyone else she could never forget me! I was wrong.

Thank you so much for sharing that video.



Thursday



Dr. Harper,

Wow!!! Very powerful song. It really speaks to me because, I have a few patients with Alzheimer's and Dementia. It is so sad to see how these diseases will break down an entire family. I have one patient who sees people in his house all the time and thinks his wife is crazy because she does not see them. I had one lady that talked to me and nothing she said made sense. She was not even in the same time period as me. I just nod and go along with to not make her upset. The pain and frustration I see the family go through hurts my heart. I have heard different comments being made about memory or the old person disease. I will think twice next time before making those comments myself. I do joke with a friend at work because she and I have the worst short term memory. But, we are blessed to not have it as bad as I have seen.

Thank you,

On Children

(Sweet Honey in the Rock)



On Children

Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them,
but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

•••

(parenting styles, child development, socialization)

- A FIELD GUIDE TO - PROCRASTINATORS



The Gamer



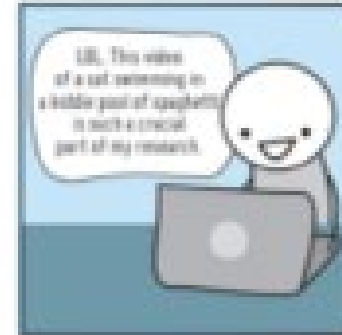
The Cleaner



The Panicker



The List Maker



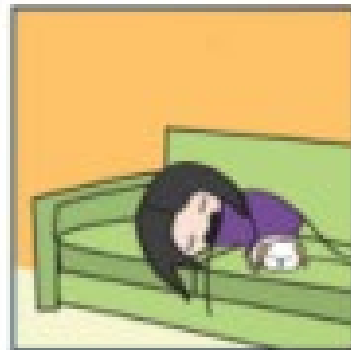
The Internet Researcher



The Snacker



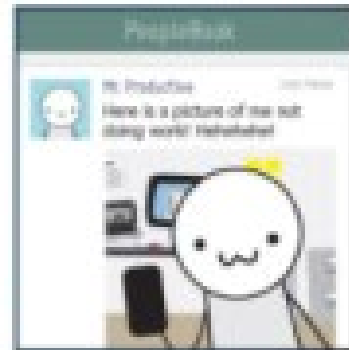
The Perpetuator



The Napper



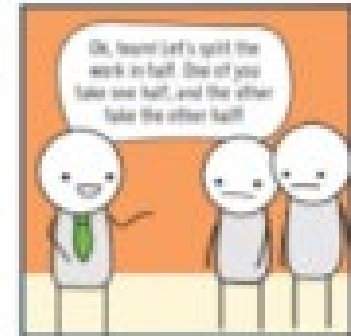
The Sidetracker



The Social Sharer



The Watcher



The Delegator

PROCRASTINATION - The Musical



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi3aEGo8y-E>



Oct 19, 2018

Dr. Harper,

Thank you so much for the reply and the always useful info. I found both of those videos to be very entertaining and I especially liked the comic strip. I remember, as a child, learning that Leonardo Da Vinci was a chronic procrastinator. His biggest issue was that he was easily distracted by his other projects, which is the same issue that I have. He kept hundreds of notebooks, with thousands and thousands of his different ideas crammed inside. He felt as though if you did not take time away from what you are doing to address your creativity and imagination, then it is going to waste because you can't get those moments back (Pannapacker, 2009). So, that tells me that procrastinating can't be all that bad, except those that chronically procrastinate never feel like they have completely finished a project.

You brought up the topic of authors and speakers who procrastinate, and it made me think of so many musical artists that I have heard say that it only took them a few minutes to write a hit song that they had. They mention that the idea just came to them and they went with it until it was complete. That is where I think that taking your time and putting too much effort into something can hurt your project. Once someone finds their "flow," they are so deep in a zone that much of the world around them does not seem to matter (Plucker, 2017). I think that when creative people, no matter the medium, get into special place, not only in their mind but literally, magical things can happen. So, some may say they are procrastinating, but someone like me would just say that they are getting in their groove.

References

- Pannapacker, W. A. (2009). How to Procrastinate Like Leonardo da Vinci. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, (24). Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com.proxy-library.ashford.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsgao&AN=edsgcl.193848538&site=eds-live&scope=site>
- Plucker, J. A. (Ed.). (2017). *Creativity and Innovation: Theory, research, and practice*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

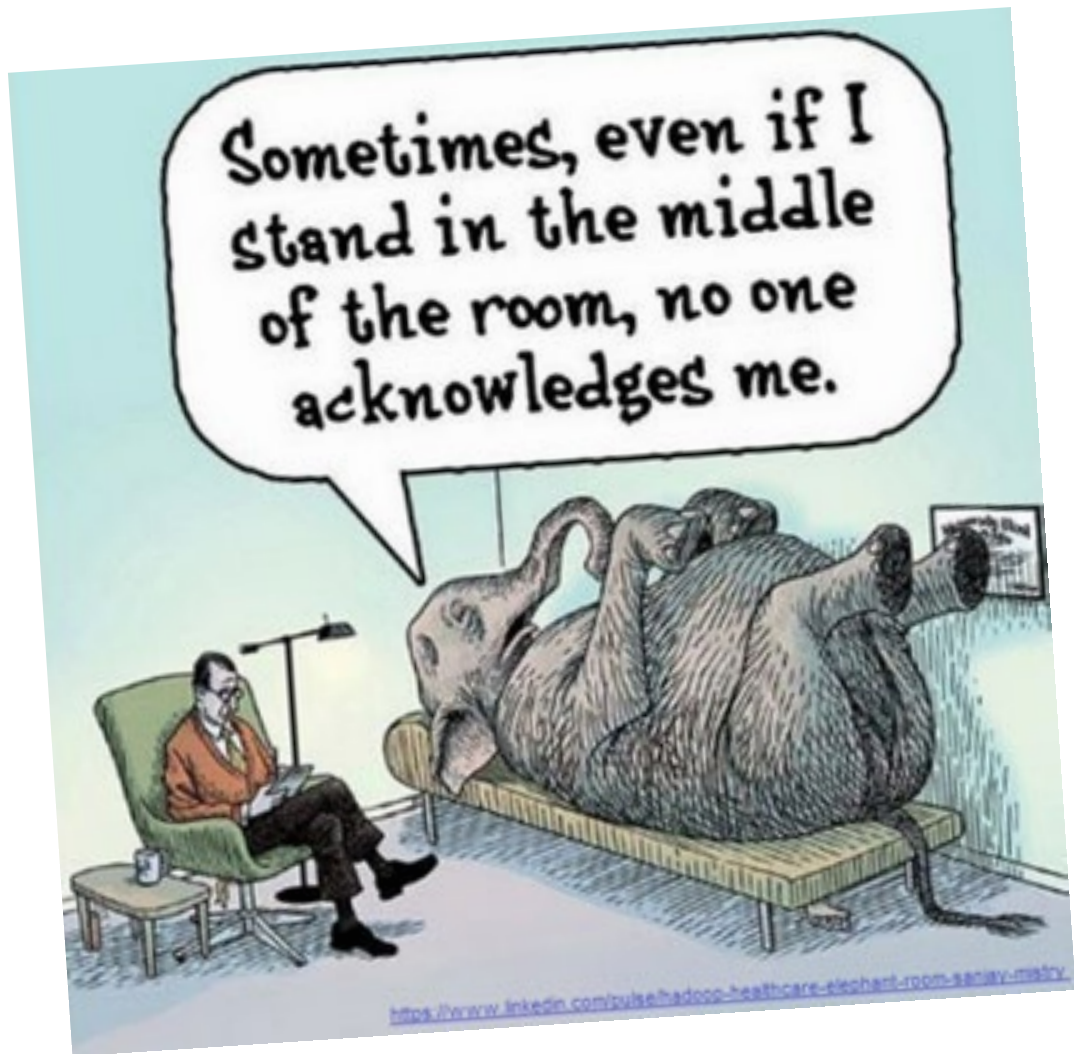
Don't try this at home, unless...

“Just my imagination
runnin' away with
me...”



LOL! 😊

you really know your student.



Humor

- Is not universal
- Is highly contextual & cultural
- Is fraught with complexity, subtleties, dangers and delights
- Can add to students' participation & learning

Broinowski, I. (2013). Humour and the Quirky Nature of Online Teaching. *New Technology in the Classroom*, 208, 24-26.



- Humor is not a panacea.
- If used excessively or inappropriately, important content may be trivialized.
- Appropriate and timely humor can augment teaching (increase students' interest and attention; reduce anxiety).



Shatz, M. A., & LoSchiavo, F. M. (2006). Bringing life to online instruction with humor. *Radical Pedagogy*, 8(2), 8

Guidelines

✓ Does the humor or music have an educational purpose?

- Cognitive presence (academic content, critical thinking skills)
- Teaching presence (pedagogy)
- Social presence (rapport, affective regulation)

✓ Will the students understand and appreciate the humor?





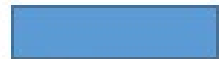
Just for fun: Laughs & smiles for you XD :-D

Yolanda Harper

All Sections



Adorable 3 year old is very happy to dance!



Saturday

Hello Dr. Harper,

Thank you so much for sharing these two videos. I really enjoyed them. You made my day.



Yolanda Harper

10:02pm

You're welcome,  I'm glad you enjoyed them!



CLICK TO COLLAPSE / EXPAND



Saturday

God knows I wish my kids were still that small sometimes. Thanks for the laughs, and the reminder of memories.

Best,





What color are your **C.R.A.Y.O.N.S.**?

Discussion

A collage of children's art projects. At the top, a yellow ribbon with a colorful triangular ornament hangs across the page. Below it, several drawings are displayed. On the left, there are three drawings of a stork: one colored pink and white, one colored green and white, and one colored blue and white. In the center, there is a vibrant, multi-colored drawing of the words 'Happy to be ME' in a bubbly, decorative font. To the right, there is a drawing of the words 'Happy to be ME' in a simple, outlined font. Below the central drawing, there are two more drawings of the words 'Happy to be ME': one in a simple, outlined font and one in a more decorative, outlined font. The entire collage is set against a white background.

Bring Your **C.R.A.Y.O.N.S.** to Class




Thank
you!



References

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