

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE HUMOROUS LESSONS THAT MOTIVATE STUDENTS<sup>1</sup>

**Alice F. Artzt**

Queens College of the City University of New York

**John Aguirre**, IS 499 (T7)

**Lysaundra Bisal**, H. Frank Carey H.S. (T6)

**Eric Glatz**, Queens School of Inquiry (T1)

**Kendal Jones**, JHS 194, (T6)

**Deepak Joseph**, Bayside H.S. (T6)

**Sylvia Liu**, Queens School of Inquiry (T5)

**Ricardo Lopez**, Bronx High School of Science (T7)

**Samantha MacKinnon**, I.S. 93 (T6)

1. Introduction
2. What are the advantages of humor in the mathematics classroom?
3. What are the mediums for humor?
4. Examples of humorous lessons
5. Questions, comments

### References

- Azzolino, A., Silvey, L., & Huhes, B. (Eds.). (1978). *Mathematics and Humor*. Reston, VA: The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.
- Cornett, C. E. (1986). *Learning through Laughter: Humor in the Classroom*. Bloomington, Ind.: Phi Delta Kappa.
- Gadanidis, G., Gadanidis, J.M., & Huang, A.Y. (December 2004/January 2005). Using humor to gain mathematical insight. *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*, 10(5), 244-250.
- Kaplan, R. M., & Pascoe, G. C. (1977). Humorous lectures and humorous examples: Some effects upon comprehension and retention. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 69, 61-65.
- Martin, W.B.W., & Baksh, I. J. (1995). *School Humour: Pedagogical and Sociological Considerations*. St. John's Newfoundland: Faculty of Education Publications, Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- Medgyes, P. (2002). *Laughing Matters: Humour in the Language Classroom*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.
- Nicewonder, C. *Humor in the Mathematics Classroom? But Seriously*. <http://www.umkc.edu/cad/nade/nadedocs/94conpap/cncpap94.htm>.
- Paulos, J. P. (1982). *Mathematics and Humor: A Study of the Logic of Humor*. University of Chicago Press.
- Powel, J. P., & Andersen, L. W. (1985). Humour and teaching in higher education. *Studies in Higher Education*, 10, 79-90.
- Wischniewski, M.M. (1986). *Humour, Creativity, Learning. Why Educators Should Take Humour Seriously*. Toronto, Ont.: Ontario Ministry of Education.
- Ziv, A. (1988). Teaching and learning with humor: Experiment and replication. *Journal of Experimental Education*, 57, 5-15.

---

<sup>1</sup> Prepared for NCTM, Washington DC, Friday, April 24, 2009.

## Sources for Finding Video Clips

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

Great site for short sound clips to enhance presentations. Has sound clips from movies and TV shows as well!

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

Download this software which will allow you to download and save videos from hundreds of sites including Youtube. You only need to put your mouse over a video and it will ask if you would like it downloaded.

Since most downloads save in a flash file format you may need to convert the files. (Flash movies play in Smart Notebook but may not play in PowerPoint presentations.)

[http://www.download.com/YouTube-Downloader/3000-2071\\_4-10647340.html?part=dl-10647340&subj=dl&tag=button](http://www.download.com/YouTube-Downloader/3000-2071_4-10647340.html?part=dl-10647340&subj=dl&tag=button)

[http://www.download.com/YouTube-Downloader/3000-2071\\_4-10647340.html?part=dl-10647340&subj=dl&tag=button](http://www.download.com/YouTube-Downloader/3000-2071_4-10647340.html?part=dl-10647340&subj=dl&tag=button)

This program is the Youtube downloader. Once you download a file using the real player you can open it in this program and convert it to a format that will play in PowerPoint. (.WMV)

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

This site has a great video and image search.

\*Please note that we are not responsible for any viruses they may get from these sites, although we are quite sure that they are all safe since none of our computers have been infected by them.