



## Questions for Classroom Discussion

### **“Humor in the Classroom”**

- **Why is it important for a teacher to incorporate humor into his or her lessons?**
  - ⇒ Consider that the content students are learning can be “dry” and that it is difficult to engage students — an occasional joke or use of humor can help with this
  - ⇒ Consider that a teacher who is funny is more approachable and less intimidating to students, which can help bring out the best in them
  - ⇒ Consider that humor can be a very effective mnemonic device to help students remember terms and concepts that otherwise would be forgotten
  
- **How might the use of humor in the classroom become disruptive to the learning process?**
  - ⇒ Consider the tight schedule students have to learn a large amount of content, and how an undisciplined classroom where students are laughing and joking can lead to wasted time
  - ⇒ Consider that one of the most important lessons that students learn in school is to concentrate even when they are bored or uninterested... it is not the job of the teacher to entertain them
  - ⇒ Consider that there is a fine line between a student laughing *with* a teacher, and a student laughing *at* a teacher... the use of humor in the classroom can often lead to a culture of disrespect
  
- **What are the best strategies for a teacher to integrate humor into his or her classroom?**
  - ⇒ Consider how a simple joke can be used to engage students, and even help them remember terms and concepts
  - ⇒ Consider fun activities — song parodies, games, role play, skits, puzzles, drawings, comic strips, etc.
  - ⇒ Consider how “humor” doesn’t have to be organized, but rather it is a culture in the classroom where the teacher and students are relaxed and occasionally laugh while learning