

HUMOROUS SPEECH WORKSHOP

May 6, 2017

By Bryan Fisher (e-mail: Bryan.Fisher@CSAA.com)

Why? _____

What? Basic idea of Humor is to break an expected result with a Surprise.

Comedy versus Humor: Comedy (Wit) Tears Down, while Humor Builds Up.

I. Self (Ethos) – An appeal based upon the Character of the speaker. Know Your Self.

II. Spectators (Pathos) – An appeal based on Emotion. Know your Spectators (Audience)

III. Stuff (Logos) – An appeal based on Logic or reason. Know your Stuff.

- A. Element of Surprise: “Do You ever wake up Grumpy?” “No, I just let him sleep in.”
- B. The Triple (Comedy comes in 3’s): Three husbands sharing stories of argument with wives. 1) “She threw me out of bed,” 2) “She threw me out of house,” 3) “She came crawling on hands and knees, saying, ‘Get out from under that bed and stand up like a man!’”
- C. Zinging (Aha): “They told me they had free weights at the gym, so I took some.”
- D. Exaggeration: “My wife told me a shaved head would make me look younger, and she was right. I now look like a baby!”
- E. Implication: Grand Canyon Guide: “It took millions of years to carve this.” Visitor: “Oh, was it a government project?”
- F. Play on Words: “One hospital is drastically cutting costs by having patients make their own beds. Upon admittance, they hand them a tool box and some wood.”
- G. Reverse: My wife gave her friend a playpen, and we receive a thank you note. It read, “This pen is just what we needed. I sit in it every afternoon, and the kids can’t get near me!”
- H. Clarification: “I’m a vegetarian. Well, not a strict vegetarian. I eat beef and pork, just not fish. That’s gross!”
- I. Misunderstanding: “You don’t like meat? No problem, we’ll give you lamb.”

Work It Out with Practice: Come up with 10 endings to one of the following scenarios:

- A) I use wine when I cook . . . (example: “And sometimes I pour it into the pan.”)
- B) My wife gave me a list of things to do... (e.g., warm a can of condensed milk, but the can exploded!)
- C) My pet does some crazy things sometimes...(e.g., bites the hand that feeds it.)
- D) Name your own crisis and funny reaction (e.g., being stuck in an elevator, trying to get a date, disappointing another, awkward moment, getting a ticket, waking up late, a surprise, an accident, etc.)

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10 Reactions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Resources:

- 1) **Toastmasters** – Visit **Tales and Tellers** (2nd and 4th Sundays) and **Laugh Lovers** (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Where: Concord Denny's, 1313 Willow Pass, Concord, CA 94520
When: Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (May 14th – “Find the Funny”; June 11 – “Write Funny”)
Contact: Brendan Murphy, DTM at (925) 899-5187 or bm8527@me.com
- 2) **Internet Resources:** Charlie Houpert – Charisma on Command (Youtube Channel);
Rick Olson – Afunnieryou.com;
Darren LaCroix – StageTimeUniversity.com;
T. Chendil Kumar (CK) – Youtube Humor Workshops
- 3) **Watch Comedians** on Youtube and note how they tell stories:
a) Jim Gaffigan, b) Russell Peters, c) Brian Regan, d) Jerry Seinfeld, e) Ryan Hamilton, f) Jeff Allen,
g) Henry Cho, h) Bill Cosby, i) Ellen Degeneres, j) Joan Rivers, k) Bob Newhart, etc.
- 4) **Books:** “**Story Theater Method**” by Doug Stevenson (Ch 15 – On Comedy);
“**Standup Comedy The Book**” and “**The Comedy Bible**” by Judy Carter;
“**Humorously Speaking**” – Advanced Communication Series – Toastmasters;
“**Comedy Writing Secrets**” by Melvin Helitzer;
“**The Ten Commandments of Comedy**” by Gene Perret;
“**The Comic Toolbox: How to be Funny, Even if You’re Not**” by John Vorhaus