



You Must Be Joking – Worksheet – 5 Joke Structures

<p><i>The emotional elephant</i> Clearly express one emotion or point of view – the ‘elephant in the room’. Create a dialogue and act it out. Create a misdirection using an assumption about the other actor in the dialogue. Reveal the opposite of that assumption which reinforces your original emotion.</p>	<p>eg insecure, afraid, overconfident eg the waiter is unqualified eg I’m less qualified than the waiter</p>
<p><i>Exaggerate a connection to a shared belief</i> Pick one belief you think you share with your audience. Create a scene of conflict. Ask a question or rhetorical statement. Answer that question with a question.</p>	<p>eg “kids these days...” eg kids not getting Mandela reference eg “He was man of the century!” eg “Which century was that?”</p>
<p><i>Reversal</i> Think of a commonly held misconception. Create a situation that seems to reinforce that belief. How can the opposite be true?</p>	<p>eg authors are rich & famous eg let me do you a favour by autographing your book eg the autograph is devaluing the book as damage would</p>
<p><i>Alternate Explanations</i> Clearly express one emotion or point of view – the ‘elephant in the room’. Describe a situation where that’s. If the opposite were true, what problems might you face? Alternate reasons for that happening?</p>	<p>eg I’m old compared to you eg buying alcohol eg young people get carded eg getting arrested</p>
<p><i>Connecting unconnected things</i> Create lists – nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, concepts, beliefs, rules, sayings, feelings, objects, places, etc. Write down 2 random choices from separate lists. Free associate words around them. Find connecting concepts between them.</p>	<p>www.randomwordgenerator.com poor → bills → vetbills ← dogyears ← dogs</p>

Pick one technique. Work it up using one premise from one of your own existing presentations. You’ve got the rest of this page and the back of this page. Start riffing with others. Share and compare. Track me down for some feedback and ideas.