



ACTIVITY: 'OKAY, COMPUTER'

TIME: 15+ minutes

SIZE: Small groups

SPACE: For small groups to work

RESOURCES: Cardboard boxes, scissors, slips of paper, paper cups/envelopes, pens

The aim is for students to enjoy an activity based on unlikely associations.

The result should be practical understanding that, when we open ourselves to it, humour can be found in the absurd and the unexpected.

1. Break the class into small groups of four to six students.
2. Divide the groups into halves. Have one half each write five random questions on slips of paper (one question per slip), e.g. 'What is the natural food of the flamingo?'. Make sure these questions are not personal or offensive! Have the other half each write five random answers/statements (one per slip) e.g. 'Miley Cyrus'.
3. Have each group put their 10–15 question slips in one paper cup/envelope, and the 10–15 answer slips in another cup/envelope.
4. Give each group a cardboard box. It should be big enough to fit over a student's head and shoulders. This will become the group's 'brainiac computer'. Cut a hole or holes in the 'screen' so the wearer can see out and speak from within. If time permits, groups can decorate their brainiac.
5. A volunteer from each group wears the computer and takes the answer cup/envelope.
6. One by one, other group members randomly ask the brainiac questions from their question cup/envelope. The computer (in a computer voice!) randomly picks answers from the cup and reads them aloud.
7. The arbitrary pairing of odd questions and unlikely answers can be very funny.
8. If the activity is humming well, have groups share question/answer slips.

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS



- What were some standout questions and answers?
- Why were these funny? Was it the unlikelihood of the pairings? Strange mental images? Innuendo?
- How can random events in life also be funny? Have you ever had something unlikely or coincidental prove to be very amusing?
- What do our minds need in place to find these unexpected things funny? What can we do to make ourselves more open to appreciating funny things in life?
- How important is your attitude to this kind of humour? Do you have control over that attitude?