JUST JOKING Demo

Powerpoint Segment:

NOTE: REVIEW/EDIT JOKES PRIOR TO SHOWING POWERPOINT (SOME ARE POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE)

* Cycle through Just Joking Powerpoint jokes. Instruct students not just to laugh (or not) but to think about *why* they found a particular joke funny (or not)
* Response writing (follow directions on slide)
* Share which one you chose and why at your table
* Brainstorm claim possibilities as a group. As they are generated, write down claims on dry erase board/big sheet of paper
* Put up Quote Posters around room
* Direct students to circulate & gravitate to their favorite quote
* Discuss with others who chose that quote

PARAGRAPH WRITING Segment

* Return to seats, take out paper/laptop
* Distribute Abbreviated Text Set
* Distribute 9 Sentence Starters
* Toss up sample paragraph on projector

Goal: students will write a paragraph that uses: authorizing and illustrating (and extending if possible)

Wrap-up:

* Share with a partner/group of 3 or 4
* Use extended journal/exit slip/verbal response to identify something they learned

Rationale – JUST JOKING

The reasoning behind this mini-unit is two-fold. First, the intent of Just Joking is to spur young people to analyze and evaluate the ways stereotype jokes are used in society, for better or worse. Drawing from theories of humor as alluded to in Noel Carroll’s work, students will begin to develop a personalized ethics of humor, if you will.

Second, in order for human beings to make full use of argument, they must maximize their use of the “experts” in their area of study. This maximization involves not only using direct quotes from the source author(s) but introducing them in such a way that flexes the muscle of source author expertise. As such, Just Joking is designed to encourage a natural organization flow of claim/authorizing/illustrating—to use the jargon of Joseph Harris.

By infusing both elements, students can improve both their writing and their overall ability to think critically and argue effectively.

Carroll, Noel. *Humor: A Very Short Introduction.* Oxford University Press: 2014.

Harris, Joseph. *Rewriting: How to Do Things with Text.* Utah State University Press: 2006.