The Serious Role of Silly In Talking and Teaching About Climate

Esteban Gast
Comedian, Educator, and Co-Founder of Climate Comedy Cohort and Climate Cultura
Goals

● Share strategies that you can use as an educator
● Shift some paradigms about how we use lightness for heavy topics

Important: not how YOU can be funny (no offense)... but how levity and silliness can be used in teaching and thinking about climate
Former Lecturer, co-author of a book on creativity, former President of off-the-grid study abroad program
Learning = practice + feedback
Learn to come up with jokes, ideas, stories, and scripts that tackle climate change

Practice and feedback
Here’s what I hope to teach about the climate crisis:

Invite everyone in, use every idea, combing everything
Warm Up

● In the chat, share your worst experience you’ve had in a restaurant?
Big Idea #1

Recontextualizing
Big Idea #1

Recontextualizing

- Makes the scary thing a little less scary
- (Sometimes) it’s easier to find the “bad” than the opportunity
- Gain comfort with “bad” ideas (no stakes)
- Mindset shifts
Let’s Walk Through: "Rant"

- What **frustrates** you about Los Angeles?
- What **annoys** you about Los Angeles?

Then, we flip the script

Sophie Strand

“Science with Sophie”
Big Idea #2

Juxtaposition
Big Idea #2

Juxtaposition

- Random words means ANYTHING can be an source of inspiration
- Understanding and awareness of what is most popular
- Creativity is combining
Let’s Walk Through: Juxtaposition Activity

Random Word Generator

Prompts:

- Field Trip
- Volunteer
- Bills/law

Brad Einstein
Climate Comedian, Communicator, and Educator
Big Idea #3

Invite everyone by intentionally thinking of everyone
Lotus Blossom

- Quick background on neuroscience
- We’ll do this specifically for audiences
Review Goals

● **Share strategies** that you can use as an educator
  ○ Recontextualize
  ○ Juxtaposition
  ○ Lotus Blossom

● **Shift some paradigms** about how we use lightness for heavy topics
  ○ Humor can help in every step of the journey
Q+A

Thank you

www.estebangast.com
@realestebangast