Humor trumps All
How fun improves learning

Aloha! My name is Tamsen Mitchell
READ and DO - Introduce yourself to a neighbor
Share the most memorable learning experience you’ve had
The brain doesn't pay attention to boring things.

John Medina
Humor ≠ Comedy

humor
noun hu·mor \ˈhyü-mər, ˈyü-

a : that quality which appeals to a sense of the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous

b : the mental faculty of discovering, expressing, or appreciating the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous

c : something that is or is designed to be comical or amusing
Trouble knocked at the door but hearing laughter hurried away.

Benjamin Franklin
The 6 Trumps®

Use more senses: The experiential education motto is that you learn

40% of what you hear

60% of what you hear and see

80% of what you hear, see, and do

Judy Willis, M.D., M.Ed.
Moving trumps Sitting

To improve your thinking skills, MOVE
Exercise boosts brain power

If you wanted to create an education environment that was directly opposed to what the brain was good at doing, you probably would design something like a classroom.

John Medina
Oxygen
SIT
STRETCH
THINK
Talking trumps Listening

The person doing the most talking is doing the most learning.
We humans exist in networks. Learning is social.

We learn from, by, and with other people.

Jay Cross
Pair Share and Teach Back
Images trump Text

Cognitive Neuroscience: How we take in, store, retrieve, and use information
Vision trumps all other senses. The more visual the input becomes, the more likely it is to be recognized and recalled.
Images are anything visual

...photos, props, icons, cartoons, graphics, videos, other visual aids...
Writing trumps Reading

Writing serves as a tool for refining thinking
Before the 1st quarter-hour is over in your presentation, people have usually checked out.

Shorter trumps Longer
Re-Engage listeners every 10 minutes
The human brain is hard-wired to notice differences and to screen out things that remain the same.

Different trumps Same
Any stimuli introduced into our immediate environment which is either

**new** (novel)

or of sufficiently strong

**emotional intensity** (high contrast)

will immediately gain our...

...**attention**
Put another way:

The brain quickly learns to ignore anything that is

- Routine,
- repetitive,
- predictable,
- or just plain boring.
Laughter is the shortest distance between two people

Victor Borge
Brain Works
Shift Happens
Pinky Brain
Novelty
Contrast
Meaning
Emotion
The Limbic System
Dopamine-Reward Theory
Laughter is a corrective force which prevents us from becoming cranks.

Henri Bergson
Humor trumps All

INTRODUCING! Plan to make it fun
Get Past the auto pilot
Jolt
Breathe
Humor is a funny thing
If people are laughing, they are listening.
If I am laughing, I’m relaxing.
If I’m relaxed, I’m connecting.

Sir Ken Robinson
Krazy Glue
GLUE BOND
I don’t trust anyone who doesn’t laugh.

Maya Angelou
Brain
WIG OUT
Dish out Dopamine
Hershey's Kiss
The Penny Drops
But... I'm not funny
Epic Burndown Chart

Number of Arrests for Arson
Per 100,000 Population: 1990 to 2011 *

United States
Pennsylvania
Northeast

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Break the 4th wall
The human race has only one really effective weapon and that is laughter.

Mark Twain
ADVICE - $.50
GOOD ADVICE - $2.00

and jokes for free.
Always live your life to tell the best story

Tamsen Mitchell
thank you

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