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English 1302

Humor Makes Reading Fun

One of the strategies Joshua Halberstam uses to make his essay "Class in the Classroom" more effective is the use of humor. Halberstam uses humor throughout the chapter which makes it fun and interesting for the readers. When I was reading his essay, I did not stop to get a glass of water or to check my cell phone to see if I had a text message—as I usually do—because his humor made me keep reading the paper until the end. Halberstam is humoristic by being realistic and sarcastic at the same time. For example, he sarcastically writes, "Sure, and I recommend that you do a triathlon every morning and read one play by Shakespeare with dinner every evening" (Halberstam 5). Then he follows this statement with a comic and realistic "Who are we kidding?" implying that he is just kidding about his recommendation (5). Halberstam's humor is very detectable and easy to catch. When he recommends (talks about) class participation, he makes fun of the student who always wants to tell his or her life story to the class. When I read those lines, I felt so familiar with the situation that I laughed for a few seconds. It was obvious for me that he reason mentioned he (talked about) this type of students was to intentionally cause a joking sensation in his readers. Although joking, Halberstam takes his writing very seriously, and his humor only shows how passionate he is about his work. I enjoyed reading Halberstam's essay because the humor in his writing made it a fun and educational experience.

Good job. Every sent. clearly relates back to the topic sent.

~~Neyssa Jones~~

September 13, 2010

English 1302-5003

center the title by highlighting it &
clicking the "center" button.

Tone is Everything

Joshua Halberstam's informal tone in "Class in the Classroom" was most effective because he makes it seem like he's giving friendly advice rather than a lecture

from a teacher. "The more stringent ones will even fail the A student who has accrued too

many absences. Unfair? I agree. In fact, I find this outrageous" (Halberstam 1).

Halberstam is aware that his audiences are college students, so his informal tone makes

the students relate to what he's saying. A more formal tone would have made his message

boring and less efficient. People like reading things that are light and humorous.

Halberstam starts off with "Kid knocks on my office door," immediately letting the

reader know that this isn't going to be another mind numbing read (1). Halberstam's

advice doesn't sound like a sermon because of his tone; yet he still lets the reader know

that his advice should be taken into consideration. A formal tone wouldn't have gotten

his message across as clearly, nor would it have had the same effect on the reader.

(good job, Neyssa. Repeating the word "tone" throughout the PT ensured
your focus on that one strategy.
work on just a bit more development.)

Work Cited

Halberstam, Joshua. "Class in the Classroom." *Acing College*. New York: Penguin, 1991.

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