

CAROLE'S COMMENTARY

STIMULATE AND MAINTAIN STUDENT ATTENTION: BE AN ACTOR

Students and colleagues have frequently asked me what it was that made me a successful teacher.

My response: **Training in acting with a focus on engaging the audience provided me with excellent skills for teaching and boosted my confidence.**

What are those skills?

Teaching is a solo performance so:

- **Don't stand still for long.**
Walk around the room so that students will have to turn to see you and respond to questions.
- **Change facile expressions**
Depending on the nature of the idea, the question, or the student response.
 - Wide-eyed for questions.
 - Narrow-eyed for other possible methods or solutions.
 - Raised eye - brows for unexpected student comments, questions, and solutions.
 - Frown for comments or answers that are not relevant or in error
- **Change voice volume:** To show understanding, excitement, or confusion.
 - Loud whisper
 - Soft whisper
- **Be able to ad-lib** (no fixed script).
Presentation of concepts, skills, solution methods often require on-the-spot changes to enhance understanding and promote greater interest. So, prior to teaching identify potential errors or needed changes.

