

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.

