Lesson Title: What is Funny

Lesson Age Group: Middle-High School

Lesson Audience: Educators

**Warm up** (3 minutes): Have students write down all the times they’ve laughed the hardest (that they can remember

Note: This lesson may be more effective in periodic classes if students are given notice in advance so they have the opportunity to write down moments as they happen, or as they remember them.

Ask students to share their favorite example with the group.

Questions and themes to follow up with while students share their answers:

Note: these questions are intended to give students the option to go deeper into a given sub-theme. If they choose to do so, allow their interest to direct the conversation.

* Would you have laughed if you were alone when this happened? (or: Do you think you would have laughed harder if you were in a group when this happened?)
* Do you think you would find that same moment funny five years ago? What about 5 years from now? Or, do you think you will always find it funny?
* Did you choose a moment to share that you thought other people would find funny? Was there a moment you found funnier that you did not want to share because you thought the rest of the group might not agree? (Is it good if people all think the same things are funny?)

**Main Discussion:**

What makes up your sense of humor? Where does humor come from?

Potential avenues to get the conversation started:

* Tiktok has an algorithm that can identify what we find to be funny. Can Tiktok also change and shape our sense of humor?
* Our parents and friends have a defining role in what we find funny. Do we ourselves have any say in what we find funny, or is it all dependent on cues we pick up from people in our lives?
* Is it *your* sense of humor at all?

**Wrap up:**

If we had an experiment and raised a town full of people inside a bubble, and everything was the same except no one made any jokes or tried to be funny, what would happen? Would humor exist? Is humor something that is created and taught by people and changes over time? Does it inherently exist? Is anything universally funny?