



MINDCHECK MOTIVATION

Teach How You Want to be Taught

WWW.MINDCHECKMOTIVATION.COM

SUMMER
2011

- Devotion to
EDUCATION
- Passion for
MOTIVATION
- Love of
MAGIC

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Welcome Back— Ponder This

It's the beginning of a new school year for most of us: welcome back. To those who teach all year round: keep up the great work; you are appreciated.

Every fall I reflect on my teaching career as a whole, and I keep going back to my first days in the classroom when I started my career at a school for adjudicated youth. It was different than a detention center in that this was the place where young men served their sentences for non-violent crimes, usually a period of between 6 and 12 months. School was all year—no summers off. Furthermore, it was considered a private school, and the pay and benefits were far less than I was used to in the private sector.

It was also culture shock. I was in the private sector for 5 years, and the last time I was in a high school classroom was 10 years before in a small parochial school in the hard coal region of Pennsylvania. At least the culture shock did not last long since I was easy-going and treated everyone

with respect and dignity (thank you mom and dad for raising me right).

Now let's set the scene—you are in my shoes: you are a twenty-something male that has a "cop haircut," teaching adjudicated youth that are from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Cleveland. You have nothing in common with your students... hell, you did not even go to public school. You are in charge of their learning, and it seems that most of your students are happy they are locked up because they are getting a shower and three square meals a day.

Out of all the things that could be said, all the scenarios that

can happen, they keep asking you the same question.

It is not, "where are you from?," nor "who are you?," or the other million questions that might come from a young person. No the question they asked was:

"Why are you here, are you here for us or the money?"

I thought this was a crazy question, but is it? I often reflect to this day: Why am I a teacher? What are my goals this year? Am I just going to sit back and rely on old lessons, or am I going to try to make them better?

I want everyone to stop and think for a moment, "Why are you a teacher?" Please think hard about this question. Remember, if you are teaching in a public school, or at a detention center, you are teaching someone's daughter or son. You are responsible for their education at that time. Would your class be the same if your child was there?

Good luck, and God bless.





MAGIC
in the
CLASSROOM

Try this trick in
your classroom,
next meeting,
or with friends.

*“Learning never
exhausts the mind”
-Leonardo Da Vinci*

Psychic Dice

Effect:

Read a totally random number from a person’s mind.

Preparation:

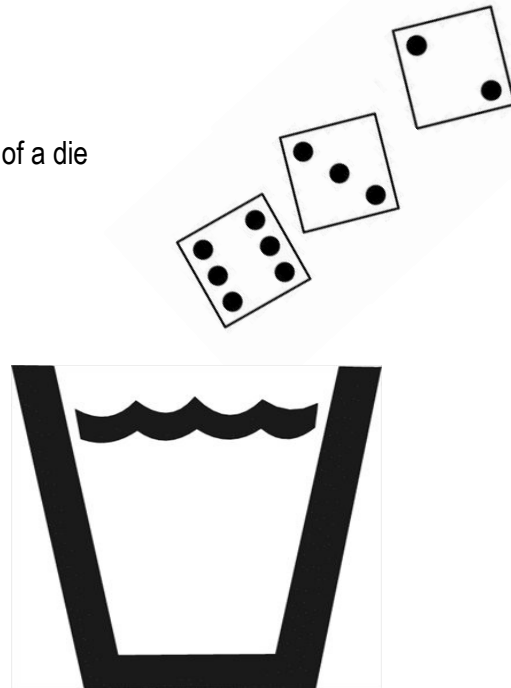
You will need three dice and a clear glass of water.

Method:

- 1) Ask a person to drop three dice into a glass of water.
- 2) Ask them to hold up the glass, add up the total of the numbers on the bottom faces of the dice, and put the glass back down.
- 3) Put your fingers in the glass, and add up the faces of the dice facing you. Subtract that total from twenty-one. The answer will be the number!

The Secret?

Remember: opposite sides of a die total 7, and 3×7 is 21.





Word Puzzles– Say What You See

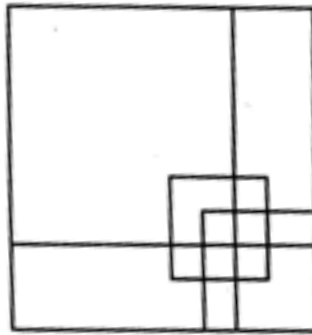
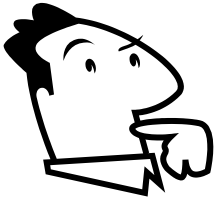
Math The

Belt
Hitting

YYguyguy

Critical Thinking Puzzle

*Answers to all
puzzles are on
Page 4.*



How many squares can you find? Remember to count the outer border!

Check Your Thought



Jimmy Jay was bragging about his softball team. He said "Three of our players hit home runs and two of those home runs were hit with the bases loaded. Our guys won 9 to 0 and not a single man crossed home plate."

How is this possible?

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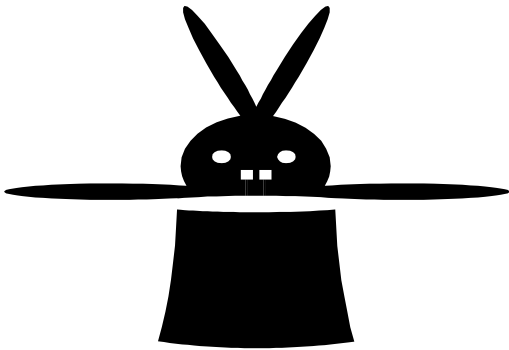
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M.A.G.I.C.

Joe's workshop titled "**M.A.G.I.C.: Motivational Attention Getters In the Classroom**" is a 1 to 3 hour workshop, depending on the client's needs. **M.A.G.I.C.** is a workshop like no other. Joe incorporates his trademark humor and magic in a presentational workshop that shows educators demonstrations, tricks, and illusions to use in the classroom to get the attention of hard to reach students. This fun-filled, fast paced workshop has something for every type of teacher, administrator, and counselor.

By the end of the workshop, educators will be able to:

1. Discover ways to use science, interactive demonstrations, illusions, and "brain bugglers" to grab students' attention
2. Turn ordinary classes into unforgettable experiences
3. Use elements of magic and illusion to teach "life lessons"
4. Learn easy and cost-effective demonstrations that will boost student participation

I can't wait to try some of these things with my students! I thoroughly enjoyed your workshop, and I hope to be in your audience again! -Betsy Flanagan: CEA CT

"I can't wait to use the techniques Joe has shown me. They're brilliant in their ease of incorporating and will certainly capture students' attention and sense of wonder." -David Felder:

Riverside Beaver County S.D., English & Comm. Dept.

MINDCHECK PUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES

The aftermath

Hitting below the belt

Wiseguys

CRITICAL THINKING PUZZLE

13

CHECK YOUR THOUGHT

They were all married!!