

Humor as a Tool for Advising Administrators

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Laughter is the best medicine. Because they involve power differentials, interactions between administrators and advisors can be marked by tension; the same is true for those between administrators and students. That's why humor is an important weapon in the arsenal of advising administration. It can help us to defuse tense situations and, when used appropriately, turn a potentially angry person into a happy one. Besides, laughter is infectious; if we employ it well, perhaps our advisors will too in their exchanges with colleagues and with advisees. We will offer examples from our own experiences to highlight the variety of ways in which humor can be employed effectively and provide samples of written materials. We will also invite participants to share their own examples and ideas.