

Teaching Tips and Materials

Ridicularum Exemplario

The Challenge:

To keep learners focused on the knowledge or skill set that you want to address and to avoid digressions over clinical passion...

Example:

Has this ever happened to you?

Scenario: You were asked to come to a meeting of nurses at your hospital to help them generate some excitement for EBM. Specifically, you want to help them get excited about clinical question formation. They have little to no background in EBM. You present a case of a hospitalized patient with delirium because most of them are inpatient nurses and you wanted the case to 'hit home' and be relevant to them. As you begin trying to draw clinical questions out of them, they begin arguing about the clinical scenario. They ask you endless questions about the clinical case, the providers involved, the color of the room that the patient was in, the size of the hospital gown...When it is clear that they can not move past the 'facts' of the case, you sigh and try a different approach.

Teaching goal: to practice skills in clinical question formation

Stumbling block: the details of the case generated excitement but got in the way of your message

Possible alternative strategy: **Ridicularum Exemplario**

Core components of *Ridicularum*

- Derive an example that is completely ridiculous, but sets the stage for discussion of the curricular points you want to make.
- The example can be non-medical or medical but it must avoid any link to reality to be effective.
- Can be used for any teaching quest
- Can be incredibly engaging and lots of fun!!

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Ridicularia from Durham:

- **The DONuT:** (The Duke Observational Nutrition Trial)-
Goal: to teach about qualitative methods. Residents are randomized to a qualitative methods arm or a quantitative methods arm. Once in randomly assigned groups, they are given a 'grant' from Dunkin' Donuts to design a trial to identify the qualities of a good donut breakfast. They MUST design the trial using the methodologies associated with their randomized groups.
 - **The Parking Ticket:**
Goal: to teach the principles of decision analysis. A scenario about a parking decision regarding parking in a nearby illegal spot vs. the farther away pay parking lot.
 - **The Dancing Ballerinas:**
Goal: to teach principles of risk. A scenario about risks involved with wearing different colors of ballet shoes and an intervention that can change the color of the shoe in a proportion of ballerinas.
- The Drive Home:**
Goal: to teach principles regarding prognosis. A scenario regarding a 'spirited discussion' between a husband and wife on the way home from a dinner party. Discussion surrounds risks involved with the driving behaviors of one of the spouses. (This scenario is based on a real interaction but the names have been changed to protect the innocent.)
- **Messages from Mom:** A series of trigger audio-clips of a rather over protective mom regarding the health and safety of her daughter. The goal is to practice clinical question formation in the context of these examples.