Teaching Stories

Story One:

I usually stand at the door and greet the students as they come in, but this particular day I didn't stand at the door. I was not wearing ID. I started talking to one student and kind of ignored the others. After the bell rang I took longer than usual to take attendance and ignored their questions – "Where is your ID? Why are you not answering my question? etc." Then I asked them what was wrong with my behavior that day and we started talking about PARR.

Story Two:

My honors class was working hard and really doing well with ACT practice for 2 weeks so I decided to reward them that Friday by giving them time for debate. It worked out really well. They chose the topic and debated. The students enjoyed it so well that they wanted to do it more often. We did! I am planning to do it again.

Story Three:

I talked to one student the previous day and told him to act inappropriately in the classroom as soon as he came into the classroom. He walked in after the bell rang. He closed the door with a bang. Then he started singing. The amazing thing was the other students in the classroom handled the situation very well. They reminded him about PARR and told him to behave. Then we talked for a few minutes about what was wrong with the way he walked in and what is the right way to do it.

Story Four:

I asked a student to observe me for 10 minutes and went on as usual with my class. It turned out that I had only 2 positive comments for every 1 negative one. I am working on it.

Story Five:

One teacher had the students line up at the door to go to an assembly. She ran down the hallway screaming, and then walked back to her students. She asked them, "Now, what would be the problem if we all did that on our way to the assembly?" She then had a discussion with the students about appropriate assembly and hallway behaviors.