

Decrowning the Classroom King: Anatomy and Physiology and the Dangers of the Contact Zone

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This article analyzes a creative writing review assignment, from an anatomy and physiology course, that drew upon Bakhtin's theory of the carnivalesque to maximize the contact zone of the classroom by inviting students to playfully "lash out" at the instructors as a form of resistance and catharsis. While fostering student-instructor trust and student empowerment to create an atmosphere conducive to critical thinking, the assignment also revealed the dangers of the contact zone. In order to undercut the perceived hegemonic masculinity of two instructors, many of the students' narratives veered into misogynist and homophobic joking that could be harmful to students and instructors alike.