

Turning Headlines Into Drafts: Comedy Bizarre Workshop

1. Three Tips

- **The “three college tries method”** - give yourself up to 3 short writing bursts to generate jokes and ideas. These should be pretty relaxed and fun. Use your “clown brain.” This is an easy way to get a rough draft.
- **Non-attachment:** If you feel too much resistance to the headline—it feels difficult or boring or you just can’t crack it—pivot to another headline. Don’t get too attached. You can always come back later.
- **Persistent but flexible:** Be persistent with the re-writes but flexible to how many re-writes it takes to get across the finish. Don’t push too hard to *a/ways* finish within two or three drafts. It’s done when it’s done.

2. Headlines

“Clever Ways to Find Out Someone’s Name When Too Much Time Has Passed to Ask What Their Name Is” - Allholls

If you win an emmy what name would the host use?

Sing the alphabet song and watch for lip twitch.

“How would you introduce yourself at a TEDx talk? Do you want to role-play it? It’ll be super useful if we ever give TED talks!”

Hey, have you ever played the compare IDs game. It’s really fun. IDs can be really surprising! Different orientations, etc”

Making fun of names in college - how other people did it

If you were to name a cat that rhymes with your name, what would it be?
What if you had to name all of your plants to rhyme with your name - how would you do that?

What's your weird addiction? Let's role play a 12-step right now?

Every thirty seconds call out a statistically common name for their generation, e.g. "Laura", "Amanda" then if they don't respond play it off by starting a sentence with that name

"Rookie Mistakes After 50 When You Don't Want to Seem Old" - Deborah

Wearing a graphic tee of a Gen X band that hasn't gained retro cool status yet. i.e. Huey Lewis and the News tee instead of Nirvana

Avoiding using your glasses when reading a drink menu. How you react to the menu maybe?

Writing emails in huge font.

Writing a check at the grocery store

Using phone as light, or in Gen X-y way??

Asking waiter if they have non-crusty bread

I remember when a Manhattan cost \$1.75

Mentioning health / talking about health in 50+ way. Joint or bone health.

When paying at grocery store, can't tap card in right spot. "Can I swipe the card, please? I don't trust the tap."

Who's up for a round of high balls.

Not reacting with alarm when someone says they have to go to doctor.

Calling an edible a chewable

Knowing orthopedic surgeons by first name.

Carry skateboard with them

“This Halloween, Ask Your Doctor If GrowingTheFuckUp™ Is Right For You!” - Christopher B

Dressing as an adult (as a costume)

Rejecting the idea of Halloween entirely, because you've outgrown it

Side effects: Having to move out of parents house

Side effects: concern with money, home ownership, financial stability, etc.

Drug store costume?

Tom Brady sends cease & desist order for dressing up as him / wearing his jersey

“Nancy Drew and Holden Caulfield Go On a Date” - Debbie M

She's asking sincere questions, he's replying like a dick (show some dialogue)

She gives him advice for finding / sniffing out phonies

“Fin the phoney” game

She’s going to ask pointed questions about his prep school / is he still enrolled / what classes is he taking / etc. (he’ll be evasive and a dick)

Explore different date venues

Explore how they would treat wait staff / or barista

Who would pay?

Apply classic man-woman dating dynamics to the two of them

She asks about prostitute thing, badgers him.

How they met: what are their messages on Bumble / Hinge / Tinder.

Or how do they meet in a public place, like they meet at concert, in park, at a bar, how does that work?

He appears in only one book, she appears in many books. (maybe in response to him fronting / being shitty / defensive etc)

What red flags does she see? She’s great at spotting them. Calling out red flags.

Will they have a second date? I.e. a sequel?

“The Secret To Backseat Driving” - Danielle

Different ways to say are we there yet?

Ask philosophical rhetorical questions: “Do you ever feel that you’re not getting to your destination fast enough?”

Complaining about speed: too fast / too slow.

You're going to miss a turn.

Sick burns: "If we were pilgrims we'd have finished dinner by now"

Find ulterior motive for backseat driver / big reveal for backseat driver:
they're having an affair

The driver is a dog / AI / non human / not who you expect

3. Draft Critique

["This Halloween, Ask Your Doctor If GrowingTheFuckUp™ Is Right For You!"](#) - Christopher B

4. Questions

1. "What do you do when your piece takes a new direction as you write it, your vetted funny headline no longer fits and you're struggling to come up with a new equally funny title?" - Danielle
2. "My headline: "Philosopher Rene Descartes Famously said, "I Think Therefore I Am." Does that Mean I Aren't?!" Alex, how do I know if the concept, "woman struggling to find purpose from an ancient Philosopher who she read about in her Tony Robbins-esque course" is relatable? ready for writing? ready for submitting? Thanks!" - Marianne