Getting Excited about Exclamation Points!

1. What are your views on the use of exclamation points?
   - Do you use them? How frequently? In what kinds of writing?
   - How do you react when others use them?

2. In case you were wondering....
   - Women use exclamation points more than men do (numerous research studies support this finding and also conclude that women are more likely than men to use multiple exclamation points).

   **Have you ever used multiple exclamation points? In what kinds of writing? How do you feel about others using multiple exclamation points?!!!!!!**

   - Scholars have debated why women use exclamation points. Previously characterized as “markers of excitability,” exclamation points may not be used primarily by women to indicate excitement. A recent study by Carol Waseleski, “Gender and the Use of Exclamation Points in Computer-Mediated Communication: An Analysis of Exclamations Posted to Two Electronic Discussion Lists,” argues that “exclamation points do more than function as markers of excitability; they can also function as markers of friendliness.”

   **How do you use and interpret exclamation points?**

   **To you, do they indicate excitement? Friendliness? Something else?**

3. Think of a metaphor or simile that characterizes the exclamation point:

   An exclamation point is like ________________________________.

4. Is the exclamation point a mark of bad writing?
   - H.W. Fowler has written, “An excessive use of exclamation marks is a certain indication of an unpractised writer or of one who wants to add a spurious dash of sensation to something unsensational.”
   - F. Scott Fitzgerald advised, “Cut out all those exclamation points. An exclamation point is like laughing at your own jokes.”