

Introduction:

In this activity, you will make your own interpretations of emojis and discuss your interpretations in a small group. You will then reflect on differing interpretations of emojis and how this impacts communication.

Participant Instructions:

- Review the following list of emojis and answer the following questions for each:
 - Do you use this emoji? Why or why not?
 - Without consulting any outside sources, how do you interpret this emoji?
 - In what context would you use it? (audience, situation, etc.)



- Discuss your answers in small groups of 3-5. Begin by sharing your answers to the three questions for each emoji with your group. Then answer the following:
 - Why do you think you interpret emojis in the ways that you do?
- In the large group, each small group will report out the insights that came from your small group discussion. Continue the debrief with the following questions:
 - What impacts how you use emojis (e.g., who you are talking to, etc.)?
 - What are the benefits of using emojis?
 - In light of differing interpretations, what issues might arise in the usage of emojis?
- Now, choose a story from your life (it can be any theme - funny, sad, inspirational, etc. – as long as there are emotions involved) and write a brief paragraph sharing the story and using as many emojis as possible.
- Exchange stories with a partner (if virtual, you can email or text your partner).
- Write a brief response to your partner's story using emojis as well.
- Once you have finished responding to one another, get together and discuss the following questions with each other:
 - How did it feel to write your story?
 - Why did you choose the emojis you did to tell your story?

- How did it feel to read your partner's response? How did you interpret their use of emojis?
 - How did you feel reading your partner's story? How did you interpret their use of emojis?
8. Ask each partner pair to report out the insights from their discussion in the large group. Then, engage in a large group discussion answering the following questions:
- "How do emojis compare to [in person] nonverbal communication?"
 - What are some of the difficulties in showing how you feel?
 - Are there emotions that the emojis do not appropriately express? [Which ones?]" (Adler et al., 2012)
 - What did you learn about yourself through exploring emojis?
 - What did you learn about others?
 - How might you apply what you learned through this activity?

Adler, R. B., Rodman, G. R., & DuPré, A. (2012). In *Understanding human communication*, Activity: Emoti-pros and cons. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.