

LINX EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

WORDS, CAMERA, ACTION!

How Body Language, Tone and Words Affect Communication

OVERVIEW

This new DVD on communication skills will help people of all ages. Viewers watch our local acting troupe work through their assigned scenes, only to realize how dramatically communication skills can affect meaning and perception. Good communication skills not only help them with their craft, but in real life, as well. With help from their instructor, a communications expert, they learn the importance of body language, tone and words, whether playing a character on stage, making new friends at school or trying to get ahead in the workplace. Each of these skills are targeted and discussed in an entertaining scene created by each actor.

OBJECTIVES

- Be aware of your body language, tone and words
- Become a better communicator
- Become a better listener

ACTIVITY 1

Be Aware of Your Body Language

Have students split into groups of 3-5. Choose one student to relate a recent story of something he did this summer or activity he did that was exciting. The other students in the group respond to what he is saying by using different body language. One student is chosen to show boredom by texting or looking at their phone. One student is chosen to show genuine interest by looking at the speaker and responding to what they are saying. One student is chosen to show they don't have time for the story by constantly looking around or at the door. As the students work through this exercise, the power of body language becomes obvious.

ACTIVITY 2

Be Aware of Your Tone

Use sentences or questions like, "Did you see the accident on the way to school?" or "Did you meet the new kid in class today?"

Let students repeat these questions using different tones. The tone they use repeating the questions will reflect how they feel about the accident or the new kid.

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ACTIVITY 3

Be Aware of your words and your audience

- What words would you use to greet your teacher versus your best friend?
- What words would you use when telling your friends about an exciting event that happened in school versus the words you would use to relate the same story to your parents?
- What words would you use with a friend to describe the job you want versus the words you would use to speak with your career counselor?
- What words would you use to inspire your fellow teammates versus the words your coach would use to do the same?
- What words would you use to describe a bad day to your friends versus the words you would use to describe the bad day to adults?

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