



**Title:** Communication Skills

**Grade:** 8

**Career Development Model:**

Self-Awareness

**Nebraska Career Readiness Standards:**

- Contributes to employer & community success
- Manages personal career development

**Objective:**

- Students will demonstrate verbal communication consistent with their nonverbal communication.
- Students will predict potential communication problems when verbal and nonverbal communication does not align.
- Students will evaluate the relationship between the verbal and nonverbal communication of others.

**Materials and Supplies Needed:**

- "Student Script" handout

**Class Instructions:**

Part 1

1. Start by reading aloud the following dialogue. While reading, use the following nonverbal communications: roll your eyes periodically, cross your arms with hunched shoulder or anything else you can think of to seem annoyed or unenthusiastic. Also, speak in an unenthusiastic, sarcastic tone. "I am so happy that you are here. I can't wait to get started on our project. We are going to spend a few hours working together on this today. I think we will be very productive."
2. Ask students what message they think you conveyed. Did what you were saying match up with what you were doing with your body, facial expressions and tone of voice?
3. Explain that people don't just communicate verbally (with words), but they also communicate non-verbally (without words). In fact, most of the communication in a given message is nonverbal. Verbal communication is what is actually said. Nonverbal communication can include facial expressions and body language

(crossed arms, hunched shoulders, looking down, eye contact, etc.).

4. Explain that when communicating with others, it is important to be aware of your verbal and nonverbal communications and be sure that they are consistent with one another so that you clearly get your message across to the other person.

## Part 2

1. Ask for two volunteers to stand in front of the class and role play the following dialogue. Give volunteers a copy of the "Student Script" handout. Blank spaces have intentionally been provided to students so that they can create an authentic dialogue. Have your volunteers take 1-2 minutes to fill in the blank spaces below.
2. The first time they perform the script, students should read it with enthusiasm and should use nonverbal communication that coincides with their dialogue. Ask students in the audience what their nonverbal communicated. Ask for volunteers to perform the same script with different nonverbal cues. After the groups have finished their dialogues, ask the class how mixed messages can affect communication between people? What can students do to make sure that their message is clearly communicated in a way which they intended?
3. Facilitate a class discussion with the students about how making verbal and nonverbal communication consistent could be important skills in the world, at school and at work.

### Credits/Sources:



"Making my Future Work: A College and Career Readiness Program", U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

<https://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/mmfw/making-my-future-work-0>

# STUDENT SCRIPT

Instructions: Fill in the blanks below. You will perform this in front of the class.

**Student 1:**

Hey \_\_\_\_\_! Have you heard the new \_\_\_\_\_ song by \_\_\_\_\_

**Student 2:**

Yeah! It's \_\_\_\_\_!

**Student 1:**

My favorite line is \_\_\_\_\_

**Student 2:**

Oh yeah! I especially like when he/she \_\_\_\_\_

**Student 1:**

He/she is way better than \_\_\_\_\_

**Student 2:**

Yup! He/she went out of style like \_\_\_\_\_