

Curiosity in Context: Exploring Gestures and Emojis Across Cultures



This assignment asks you to think about how gestures and emojis (things we often use without much thought) can have very different meanings in other cultures. By exploring these differences, you are practicing curiosity, cultural awareness, and reflection on how communication can be interpreted in ways you may not expect.

Assignment: Exploring Nonverbal Communication Across Cultures

This activity invites you to practice curiosity about nonverbal communication.

1. Choose a familiar gesture or emoji that you use or recognize often.
2. Reflect: What does this gesture or emoji typically mean within your home culture?
3. Research: Look up whether this gesture or emoji carries the same meaning in a different culture.
 - If it does have the same meaning (or you cannot find information), select a different gesture or emoji and repeat the process.
4. Identify a Difference: Once you find a gesture or emoji that has a different meaning across cultures, proceed to the next step.
5. Describe a Nonverbal Interaction:
 - Imagine using this gesture or emoji in a real interaction.
 - Explain:
 - What would your intent be in using it?
 - What could the potential impact be for someone from another culture?

Write your response in a short paragraph or two, clearly explaining the situation, your intent, and the possible cross-cultural misunderstanding. **Don't forget to include a picture of the gesture/emoji you are referencing!*