LEADERSHIP INSPIRATIONS

Emoji Stories

Participants will tell a story using only emojis

TIME	MATERIALS	TEAM STAGE
10-20 minutes	Thin paper plates, coloring utensils; optional computer & projector	Forming, Storming Norming, Performing

Learning & Development Outcomes

This activity allows for participants to engage in collaborative, creative thought and execution. Using the emojis we all know as a reference, participants will work together to create an "emoji story", advocating for their own and others' ideas throughout the process. Though a seemingly simple activity, participants will need to work through and value those in their group, promoting self development, equitable practices, and inclusion along the way.

Outcomes are focused on developing ***21st Century Skills*** and the ***National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies***, including, but not limited to:

- Assuming shared responsibility for collaborative work, and value the individual contributions made by each team member.
- Elaborating, refining, analyzing and evaluating their own ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts.
- Professionally advocating for oneself and others.
- Keeping an open mind to diverse ideas and new ways of thinking.

Preparation & Logistics

Set Up

- Pick a space that is relatively quiet so that participants can hear each other and is large enough that small groups can spread out throughout the room.
- To show examples, use a computer and projector to show emoji boards as a reference.
  - Phone or Tablet: Use dedicated emoji keyboard.
  - Mac Computer: Click "command" + "control" + "space" to open an emoji keyboard
  - Any Computer: Go to getemoji.com to access a free emoji keyboard.

Safety

- Remind participants to speak and act appropriately throughout this activity.

Additional Considerations

- As the facilitator, you will need to roam around the space to ensure participants are being appropriate!
- Set aside additional time for a debrief!
- Click here to watch the video live!

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Instructions

Summary
Participants will collaborate to create and tell a story by using emojis - small digital icons used to express ideas and emotions.

This activity is appropriate for all ages.

Step 1: Setting up the Activity
- Break your group into small groups of no more than five.
- Remind all participants to be respectful and appropriate while creating and sharing their stories.

Step 2: Begin the Activity
- Ask participants to create a visual story using emojis. The story can be about anything, or you can provide a more specific prompt for them to follow, such as:
  - *create a story about something we did together this year*
  - *create a story about your school mascot*
  - *create a story about going to the park*
- Allow them to use as many emojis as they would like, as long as they are all appropriate and related to their story.
- Give participants ten minutes to create their emoji stories on their own, using the paper plates and coloring utensils.

How long should the story be?

"Stories can be short, quick explanations/ interpretations of the emojis. 2-3 sentences per plate is a great frame of reference!"

Step 3: Share
- Have participants share their emoji stories out loud with the group.

Feel free to play appropriate background music as you see fit as participants are working!

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Debrief Questions

These questions are a starting point to guide your debrief. Pick the ones that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed!

What

- How did you come up with your story?
- What was easy or challenging about incorporating the emojis with your story?

So What

- What do you like about having pictures to go with a story?
- Do you prefer listening to a story? Seeing the pictures and reading the story? Both?

Now What

- What other ways can you share stories?
- How will you share stories with others in the future?

Adjustments for...

Large Group (25+)

- If your group is large and you have limited time, have groups pair up to share their emoji stories with each other.

Group has prior experience

- This activity can easily be done with those who have done it before. Use more specific prompts to ensure participants have not done it before, or don't provide a prompt at all. This leaves the door open for groups to be creative on their own.

Online

- To facilitate this activity virtually, prepare and share a link to a shared document.
- Either allow individuals to work alone on an emoji story or assign small groups to slides and show them how to access the emoji keyboard (see Set Up on page one).
- Play music while participants work independently on creating their own or put small groups in break out rooms.
- Bring everyone back and use the share screen feature to share the slide document while participants share their stories out loud.

Each adjustment is its own unique idea for how to facilitate this activity for different groups and situations! Choose any or all that work!

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