

**Mediated Nonverbal Reflection**

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### **Introduction**

The thought regarding nonverbal communication is that it is strictly regarding body language and facial expressions. While it is true that these make up a large portion of nonverbal communication, there are also different forms that are heavily seen in mediated communication. In this essay the topic of mediated nonverbal communication will be analyzed. In the first point there will be a reflection regarding nonverbal communication, an interpretation of nonverbal communication, and finally what nonverbal communication looks like in mediated messages.

### **Nonverbal Communication Reflection**

The way that mediated messages are seen most often in today's culture is through texting and through news sources on TV such as CNN or Fox News. How is nonverbal communication seen through these sources? The main one that will be focused on in this point is texting. Texting is a form of communication that is heavily used in today's culture particularly in young adults. It is easy to look at this and to just see the form of verbal communication that is taking place. However, how words are used, emoji's, and even acronyms such LOL (laugh out loud), show that nonverbal communication can be used even over texting. In the article "Perceived responsiveness in text messaging," emoji's are often used as a way to show the nonverbal facial expressions that would normally be seen in a face-to-face conversation (Coyle et. al., 2019).

While it can be easy to say that the use of these forms of nonverbal communication are able to replicate what can be done face-to-face, it is still not completely the same. In today's world people will often think that communicating over text will give the same message as calling, Facetiming, or having a face-to-face conversation. Texting does not have the ability to

show nonverbal cues like these other forms of communication. It can be very easy for something said over text to be misinterpreted whereas if it had been said via another form of communication the correct nonverbal cues would have been given to show the correct interpretation of the message. In the article “Cell phone decision making,” texting is often used because it is seen as easier to use than to make a phone call (Blair et. al., 2016). When making the decision to text or to call, the main factor that should always play a role in the decision is could this message be misinterpreted over text? Always asking this question will help avoid misinterpretation and conflict.

### **The Interpretation of Nonverbal Communication**

Now that there has been a reflection of the common use of texting and how it effects nonverbal communication, this point will examine how the interpretation of nonverbal communication in news media, such as on TV networks like CNN or Fox News, can be portrayed. Nonverbal communication is a way that media shows bias for or against someone or an event. In the textbook, “Nonverbal Communication in Everyday Life,” it shares that certain facial expressions such as the way that you move your eyebrows or hold your mouth can show that you support or condemn what is being reported (Remland, 2017).

### **What does nonverbal communication look like in mediated messages**

The last form of nonverbal communication that will be examined is how it is shown in mediated messages in gaming. Gaming is a pass time that many individuals take part in, and, while there is a large amount of verbal communication that takes place, there is also a large amount of nonverbal communication occurring. The biggest way is through the tone of the other individuals playing and through the punctuation and capitalization being used in messages

coming across the screen. These forms can show a player whether they should be on the lookout for something dangerous or if they just completed an exciting task.

## **Conclusion**

Nonverbal communication is often seen as simply being used in face-to-face interactions. However, as was shown in this essay, it is also an important part of texting, and the news media. In texting there are ways that have been developed to show nonverbal communication such as acronyms or emoji's. Even with these forms of nonverbal communication it can still be easy to misinterpret text messages and it is important to make sure that what you are trying to say is clear. If it is something that would be better said over a phone call, then that is a step that should be made. The nonverbal messages that are sent through news media can easily show bias in small but effective ways. In the last point nonverbal communication was shown to also be in the tone that is used in a mediated message used in gaming.

## References

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