Meaningful Online Messages

GOAL: *Help students identify how differences between in-person and online communication affect how messages are perceived and explore how to avoid misinterpretations of online messages.*

Instructions:

1. Share a sentence, then read it using different tones of voice.
   - For example, write "That was great." and read it with the following tones of voice: neutral, excited, sarcastic, uncertain, and so on.
2. Discuss how messages can be misinterpreted online.
3. Have students share what they could add to the message to communicate its meaning more accurately online.
4. Have students come up with their own examples of messages that could be misinterpreted. Encourage students to stick to positive messages! Invite students to share their examples.
5. Discuss ways to handle online messages that can be misinterpreted before jumping to conclusions about their meaning.
   - For example, students could check with the sender about the true meaning, they could pause and think about things from the sender's perspective before they assume its meaning, and so on.

Source: Panorama Playbook, courtesy of
Related Research: Online Communication & Adolescents