



Emoji Stories

Participants will tell a story using only emojis

TIME

10-20 minutes



MATERIALS

Computers, projector

TEAM STAGE

Adjourning

SUMMARY

Participants will reflect on their year together by telling a story about their favorite events or memories using only emojis - small digital icons used to express ideas and emotions.

SET UP

- Prepare a virtual slide document with one slide per participant in the group.
- Make sure that all participants have access to a device that can connect to this document so they can contribute their emoji stories. Share this document with participants ahead of the activity.
- Also be prepared with a computer and projector to share the emoji stories at the end of the activity.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Tell participants that they have each been assigned a slide in the virtual slide document to contribute to.
- Ask them to create a visual story using emojis to summarize their year as a group.
- Allow them to use as many emojis as they would like, as long as they are all appropriate and related to their experience together.
- Participants can add emojis to the document in different ways depending on the devices they are using:
 - **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.
- Give participants five minutes to create their emoji stories on their own.
- Then, give them five minutes to glance through everyone else's stories. If they want to, they can try to write out what they think the emojis are supposed to represent in the notes section of the slide document.
- Finally, have participants go through in order of the slides to share their emoji stories out loud with the group.


VARIATIONS


- Use this activity as a getting-to-know-you exercise instead. Give participants the instruction to choose five different emojis that best represent them or tell a story about them.
- Use this activity as a check in or check out question. Ask participants to choose an emoji that best describes how they are feeling before or after a meeting or event.
- Make this activity a guessing game. Have a participant pick an emoji to act out or describe, and have the rest of the participants try to guess the emoji by typing it into the chat.




VARIATIONS *(continued)*

- **No Technology:** Lead this activity with no technology by having participants draw or create their own emojis on paper with markers or other drawing utensils.


 **Large Groups:** To facilitate this activity for a large group, have participants share their emoji stories in small groups of five or six people each. Have groups share out what was similar or different about each of their stories with the large group.

 **Online:** To facilitate this activity virtually, prepare the virtual slide document and share the link in the chat. Play music while participants work independently on creating their own and reviewing others' stories. Then, use the share screen feature to share the slide document while participants share their stories out loud. [\[click here for video\]](#)

 **Asynchronous:** To facilitate this activity asynchronously, share the virtual slide document with participants so they can contribute. Give them a deadline to complete their emoji story by. After the deadline, have participants review each story and try to guess what the emoji story is about, they can contribute these ideas in the notes section of the slide document or in a separate thread. Finally, have the authors of the emoji story reveal their complete version on their original slide.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

- What:
 - How did you choose which emojis to include in your story?
 - Were you able to correctly guess the meaning of others' emoji stories?
- So What:
 - Why is it beneficial to hear others' stories?
 - How can telling a story with emojis differ from telling it with words?
- Now What:
 - What can you do with the stories you learned about in this activity?
 - When else might you be able to tell a story in a different or creative way?

 **Facilitator Note:** These questions can be used to guide your debrief, however, pick the questions that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed.