

Healthcare

Body language and culture discussion

Purpose

These are discussion questions that you can use to guide a discussion about body language and culture.

Instructions

This resource works well with the teaching and learning sequence [Healthcare: Effective body language in a healthcare setting.](#)

Body Language and Culture Discussion



Before: Think about these questions

1. Understanding aspects of body language can be different in different cultures. What are some differences? Share them with the rest of the group.
2. Why should you think about the effects of body language when working with healthcare clients and colleagues?
3. Why do you think that 'eye contact' and 'personal space' are culturally specific? Give examples.

Discuss: Talk about the questions in groups.

Extension: Interview someone from a different culture in your group. Find differences between body language in their culture and body language in your culture. Ask them about greetings, personal space, relating to older or more senior people, touching and kissing. Present your findings to the group.

Key learning point:

Body language is highly cultural. What is normal for one person can be very threatening for others. It is important to understand cultural differences so that you can understand other people's body language and be aware of your own.