

Open Your Class With This Tomorrow
Scream: Chilling Adventures in the Science of Fear

Background: Nearly every motivation and emotion chapter in introductory textbooks includes an illustration of how the various emotion theories differ in terms of how they explain the experience of emotion that results from a specific environmental stimulus. In almost all cases, the example relates to the emotion of fear and the stimulus presented in the illustration is often a bear, tiger, attacking dog, or oncoming car. This can create the impression that these theories are related solely to the emotion of fear. This activity is designed to show students how the theories apply to emotions other than fear.

Directions: Place students into groups of two and have them choose an emotion theory and a specific emotion from out of a hat. Instruct each group to create an illustration for how the emotion theory they have been assigned would explain how a particular stimulus would create the experience of the emotion they were assigned.

Emotion Theories: James-Lange, Cannon-Bard, Schachter-Singer Two-Factor, Opponent Process, Facial Feedback, Dual Pathway (LeDoux).

Emotions: Happiness, Surprise, Fear, Anger, Disgust, Sadness, Contempt
Disgust, Sadness, Contempt