LINGUISTICS: Creating a Clan Language

*Activity Outline*

**Materials**

Paper

Writing Utensils

**Objectives**

1. Understanding that language is communication and comes in many forms.
2. Acknowledging that we use language differently in different contexts.
3. Realizing that even though interpreting foreign languages is difficult, it is rewarding to be able to communicate a message with someone else.

**Activity Method**

Students divide into small groups (clans)

Students decide what mode of communication they want to use

Students decide what message they want to send

For written languages, students generate a translation key (optional)

Groups take turns presenting their languages to the rest of the class

**Checking for Understanding**

During the decoding and translation period, students will demonstrate their ability to interpret language and use context clues. However, true understanding can be assessed by asking, “How would our message change if we were communicating someone important?” or “Which language form would be best if we were trying to communicate with someone from another culture?”