Valparaiso University
ValpoScholar

Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE)

Office of Sponsored and Undergraduate Research

4-20-2011

Can You Spot the Fake?

Paul Allison
Valparaiso University, paul.allison@valpo.edu

Alyssa Abbate
Valparaiso University, alyssa.abbate@valpo.edu

Ryan Abraham
Valparaiso University, ryan.abraham@valpo.edu

Nate Keiser
Valparaiso University, nate.keiser@valpo.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.valpo.edu/cus

Part of the Psychology Commons

Can You Spot the Fake?

Paul Allison, Alyssa Abbate, Ryan Abraham, Nate Keiser

Departmental Affiliation: Psychology
College of Arts and Sciences

The ability to correctly interpret smiles is a skill that can be helpful in many aspects of life. One key feature that people look at is a smile, but smiles may not always be genuine. In our study, we focused on the detection of genuine and fake smiles and trained subjects to detect deception. The first training group was given applicable information, through PowerPoint, on distinguishing between smiles along with two videos presenting a genuine and fake smile. The second group viewed a PowerPoint with applicable information without videos. The third group viewed a PowerPoint containing just videos. Our control group was asked to think about situations where a fake or genuine smile would be used. Before training, participants viewed 10 smile videos and indicated whether each smile was genuine or fake. Following training, the participants viewed 10 new videos and again indicated whether each smile was genuine or fake. We hypothesized that the training groups would identify more smiles correctly than the control group. One week later, all groups viewed the same 20 videos again to determine whether the training had a lasting effect.

Information about the Authors:
Paul Allison, Alyssa Abbate, Ryan Abraham, and Nate Keiser are all junior psychology majors.

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jennifer Winquist

Student Contact: alyssa.abbate@valpo.edu