

NHLI **BEST** Communication Progressions

6-8

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Self-Awareness & Reflection

How am I using my past learning and my strengths to clearly communicate or interpret meaning when I listen, respond, speak, or write?

Context & Message

How do I use my knowledge of language and context to interpret a message or to help me plan my communications?

Establishing Meaning

How do I decide which sources, examples, or format to use when I'm developing and sharing ideas and interpreting ideas of others?

Delivery & Expression

How do tone, emphasis, and nonverbal cues help to convey or interpret a message and engage others?

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Monitoring & Adapting

How do I use verbal/nonverbal feedback to keep my audience engaged, monitor my emotional responses, and make changes when needed?

Extending

I can also...



Self-Directed /
Leads Others

draw upon my past experience to identify which forms of communication best complement my personal preferences and strengths.

I can also...

choose language and an approach that matches purpose, audience, cultural norms, and formality of context to plan and deliver communications.

I can also...

tailor the format and supporting sources/examples to engage different audience member perspectives.

I can also...

evaluate the effectiveness of my use of tone, nonverbal cues, or digital tools (e.g., auditory, visual) to emphasize meaning and engage the audience.

I can also...

describe how my personal speaking and writing styles and techniques have been modified over time to improve my message and engage my audience.

Applying

I can also...



Independent &
Consistent

analyze how my communication strengths and challenges relate to purpose, planning, familiarity with context, or my chosen approach (with peer feedback, conferencing).

I can also...

choose language and an approach that matches purpose, audience, and formality of context to plan and deliver communications.

I can also...

choose an effective format and supporting sources/examples to enhance explicit and implicit meanings for a specific audience.

I can also...

plan and deliver presentations using tone, nonverbal cues, and digital tools (e.g., auditory, visual) to emphasize meaning and engage the audience.

I can also...

analyze my past successes and challenges when speaking, writing, or responding and set a goal for improvement using reflections on my past work.

Developing

I can also...



With Structured
Guidance

explain how I use tone, delivery, or expression to affect or influence my audience in different situations: context, formal, informal, cultural.

I can also...

show my understanding of context using descriptive, technical, and content-specific language to communicate or interpret formal and informal messages.

I can also...

evaluate the relevance and quality of potential sources and examples for specific purposes, audiences, and contexts.

I can also...

analyze how effectively others use tone, nonverbal cues (e.g., gestures, props, visuals, auditory) or digital tools to emphasize meaning

I can also...

identify and evaluate strategies I've used to increase my participation and be more actively engaged when speaking and responding.

Emerging

I can...



Requires Direct
Prompting

use specific examples to describe how tone, delivery, or expression affected or influenced me in different situations: context, formal, informal, audience, cultural.

I can...

identify similarities and differences in language use, framing, and conventions applied across different venues and forms of communication.

I can...

analyze how the sources and examples used in a communication help to interpret explicit and implicit meanings.

I can...

express ideas using tone or nonverbal cues (e.g., gestures, props, visuals, auditory) to emphasize meaning.

I can...

use suggestions from others to make my speaking, writing, or responding more engaging and inclusive of differing viewpoints.