Clay Animals: Model with Feeling!

This is a fun and meaningful activity for young people to show how animals express their feelings through body language.

1. Create a clay model of a dog (see example below), cat, farm animal or wild animal of your choice. The animal’s features and body language should express a specific identified feeling (e.g. happy, relaxed, angry, scared, etc.).

2. Write about what your animal is feeling and point out the animal’s features (e.g. tail tucked, tail wagging, ears to the side, ears up, back arched, back relaxed, etc.).

Example: How to Make a Clay Dog

1. Start with a thick oval-shaped ball. This will be your dog’s body. Lay the oval down horizontally, and prepare to add the dog’s head and four legs.

   Add four rectangles for the legs. For legs, shape four rectangles out of the clay. Place the legs onto the dog in pairs. Two go in the front of the body and two in the back. Think about the many different poses an animal might take depending on how they are feeling.

2. Make a round ball for the head. Attach it to the top of your dog’s body. Press it in until the head sticks. Form two triangles or long ovals from the clay, and attach it to the top of your dog’s head for ears and pose them with feeling! Add eyes and a mouth to give your dog expression and top off your dog’s face with a round oval for a nose.

3. Attach a tail to your dog’s body. Roll a small piece of clay back and forth between your hands until the tail gets to the desired length. Attach the tail to the back end of your dog’s body to finish off your model.
What Are You Saying?
You can tell what a dog is trying to say by his or her body language. Look at the dog’s tail, fur, ears, mouth, eyes, and posture.

- Safe to approach
- Not safe to approach

Just chilling.
Nice to meet you!
Back off!
Let’s play!
I’m nervous.