

## Couple Fight Skit

I used this exercise in a class of 30 first-year university students to illustrate how relationship scientists operationally define abstract variables. I used the Specific Affect Coding Manual as an example of how researchers code behaviour in relationships. A chapter providing a detailed description of the Specific Affect Coding Manual (Coan & Gottman, 2007) is available online.

### Instructions to students

This assignment involves creating a script that illustrates two couple members in a disagreement AND acting it out in front of the class. More specifically, your group will briefly review the Specific Affect Coding Manual and select two emotions to incorporate in your script. Review the behavioural cues and comments associated with each of the selected emotions (in the manual) and incorporate them into your “couple fight” script. Each couple member should be displaying one type of emotion in the script. By the end of the class, your group should submit a script (approximately one page long; indicate the emotion each partner is trying to convey). As well, two members of each group will perform the skit in front of the class.