

Reading Facial Emotions Task

One online test that examines the ability to read facial expressions is the **Eyes In the Mind Test** (<http://socialintelligence.labinthewild.org/mite/>). In this test, subjects are shown a picture of a person's eyes, but not their entire face. Next to the picture are four emotions, and the user is asked to identify which of these four are represented by the picture. At the end of the online test, each subject is given their score.



A Do-It-Yourself version of this test would be to have students use their masks to re-create the test. To do this, arrange students into small groups of 2-4 people and have them follow these steps:

- Prior to the “meeting,” students select 4-5 emotions. They put on a mask and take a selfie of themselves exhibiting each emotion, *with the mask on*.
- They then prepare a sheet of paper (or a slide to share online), exhibiting one photo at a time along with three other emotion choices. For example, a student might write “anger, humor/laughter, confusion, boredom” on a slide. Their masked photo should reflect one of these choices.
- They show the paper or slide to the small group and ask them to choose the emotion that’s being displayed. NOTE: wearing a mask makes it more difficult – but not impossible – to read facial expressions.
- The other students in the group write down their choice – the emotion they believe the student is exhibiting.
- The designated student then reveals the correct answer and the groups discuss if the task was difficult or easy, and what helped reveal the emotion.

Younger children could do the task without using their masks.