

GUIDED EMOTION PARTICIPATION

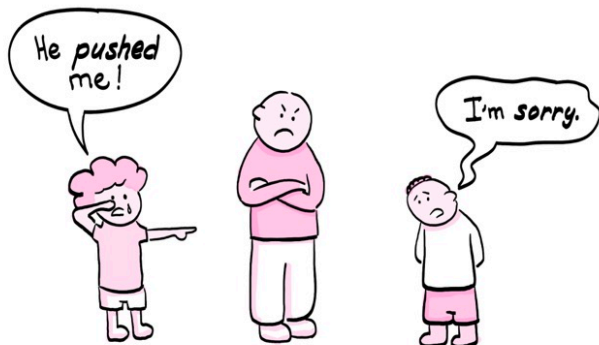
by Tanner Vea
(with Rainn)



Context: Animal Rights Activism

Emotion is really important to how people figure out what's right and what's wrong.

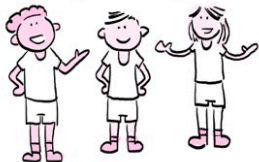
Our moral emotions, like those we label as anger and shame, guide our behavior.





Because emotion is shaped by our *social interactions*, it's possible to *guide* other people's emotion.

nice job in the game!



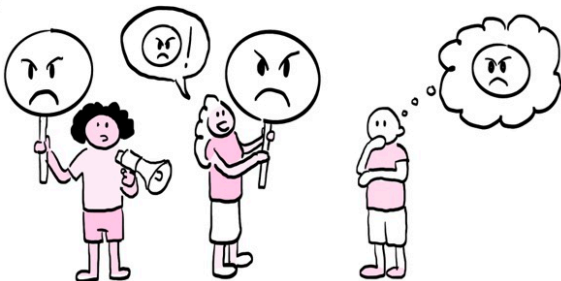
what the hell are you doing?!



we're very disappointed.



This makes emotion a powerful tool for organizers & activists.



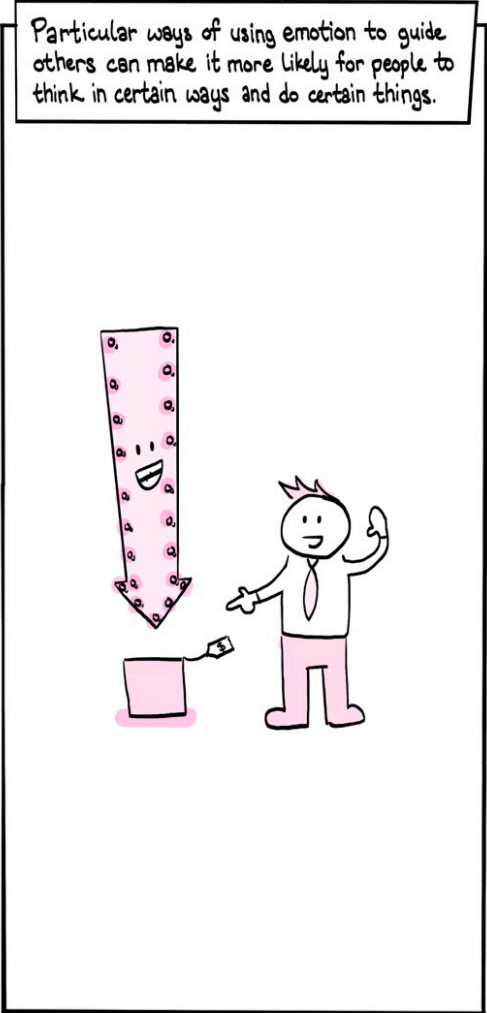
Emotion isn't only about feeling.
It's also about what our feelings *mean* to us.



Emotion can turn eating from
a normal, everyday activity
into a moral question.



Particular ways of using emotion to guide
others can make it more likely for people to
think in certain ways and do certain things.





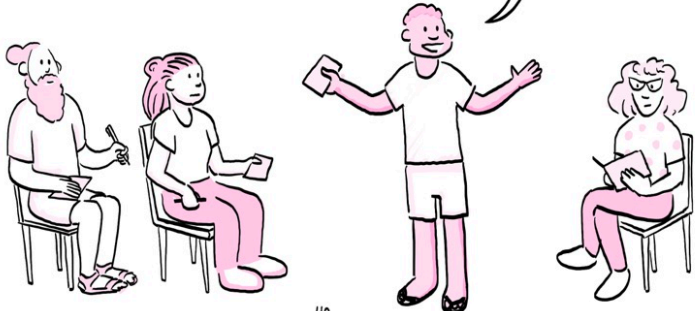
At a workshop for animal rights activists, an organizer named Carter handed out cards.

MEMORIALIZING THE NONHUMANS IN OUR LIVES
Animals play a profound role in shaping our lives, and making us better persons for it.
Today, we memorialize them

1. An animal who loved me:
2. An animal I helped:
3. An animal I failed

For each section of the card, Carter told everyone in the audience to think of an animal and

write something about them they would be proud of

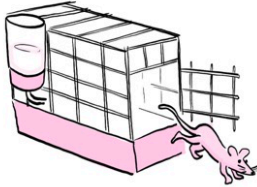


Later, people at the workshop shared what they wrote.

For "an animal I failed", people expressed a lot of emotion.



I rescued an injured rat in my apartment building...



... but then he escaped the cage...

... my neighbors found him...



... and killed him.

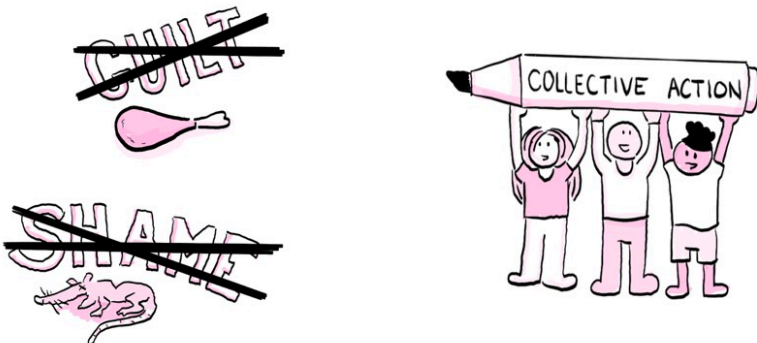
This activity got the activists to participate in sharing feelings of guilt that brought them into alignment with each other about their moral cause.



It was a way of creating agreement about a particular way of seeing (and *feeling*) the world.



For the animal rights activists, guided emotion participation helped keep activists engaged in movement work.



Now, I can't help but see people learning to do emotion *everywhere* in politics:



How does that make you feel?

What are you going to do about it?

This comic is part of
**Learning to Engage: Movements and
Sociocultural Theories of Learning.**

for more, visit:
andrewkohan.com/learningtoengage

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To find out more about the research presented in this comic, go check out:

Vea, T. (2020). The learning of emotion in/as sociocultural practice: The case of animal rights activism. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 29(3), 311-346.

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