



# INTRO TO DRONES COURSE:

Opportunities, Careers, and FAA Certification Readiness

Careers in Drones | Unit 1 | Career Activity

## Career Activity: Drone Charades

### OVERVIEW

Estimated Time: 25–30 minutes

#### Objective

Students will be able to enhance their non-verbal communication skills by playing Drone Charades.

#### Overview

Effective communication is essential for a drone pilot. Drone pilots are responsible for everything from organizing their team of visual observers, to keeping uninvolved observers safe, to understanding what content or data a client is looking for. Without great communication skills, drone pilots will not succeed. Visual observers, people watching the drone flight from different locations, are helpful for safe flights. At times, visual observers may be across a field and not able to hear the pilot in command well. Let's explore how non-verbal communication can help in a situation like this.

#### Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the challenges and importance of non-verbal communication by analyzing and interpreting different non-verbal cues in various scenarios.
- Students will be able to analyze and articulate the significance of information gathered from visual observers in various contexts.
- Students will be able to analyze and articulate the potential stressors associated with being a drone pilot.

#### Setup Details and Materials Required

- Drone Situation Charades should be written on separate pieces of paper prior to the class. See the "Drone Situation Charades Ideas" list below, but feel free to add your own ideas as well.

## Opening Discussion with Students

- Why is it important for a drone pilot to communicate non-verbally?  
Example Answers: They may be filming a wedding and trying to work with their team without disturbing the ceremony. Their radios may stop working.
- Can you think of a time when someone showed extremely poor communication skills? What happened?  
Example Answers: My mom asked me to pick up my brother from basketball, but didn't tell me the name of the gym. I went to the wrong place and we were all frustrated.
- What is an example of a worst-case scenario if a drone pilot had poor communication skills?  
Example Answers: Crashing into an object. A close call for a crash. Breaking an FAA regulation.

## Exercise Instructions

Activity Instructions: One student volunteer will come to the front of the room and act out one of the Drone Situation Charades. Students in the room will guess what the volunteer is acting out. Volunteers cannot use any words.

### Drone Situation Charades Ideas

- A bird is flying towards you!
- Kids are running underneath your drone
- The police just pulled up!
- There is an angry neighbor
- Your drone is dragging something
- You are going to hit that tree!
- I lost sight of the drone
- Another drone is in the area!
- The battery is about to fall out!

*Idea to Extend Time: Students can write additional "Drone Charade Ideas" on separate pieces of paper. The teacher can collect the papers, and each student has additional opportunities to "communicate" with the rest of the class. We recommend the teacher review the ideas before having other students act them out.*

### **Closing Discussion with Students**

- What are some different ways drone pilots can avoid confusing nonverbal situations or circumstances?

Example Answers: Using radios. Pre-flight meetings. Creating hand signals.

- What hand signals could we have created prior to starting Drone Flight Charades that would have been helpful?

Example Answers: Hand signals for: bird, stop, police, people in flight zone, close to object, etc.

- Do you think you would be able to remain calm in one of these situations? Why or why not?
- Do you have any additional “Drone Charades” that DARTdrones should add to our class? If so, please send them to DARTdrones! We would love to add them to this activity.

### **Assessment**

- Students will be assessed based on their ability to effectively communicate non-verbally during the Drone Charades game.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding by participating in a group discussion where they present and discuss the importance of visual observations in real-life scenarios.