The Effect of Training on Smile Detection

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The purpose of this study was to determine whether training combined with practice/feedback could improve participants' ability to correctly distinguish between genuine and fake smiles. Participants watched twenty video clips of people smiling and were asked to mark whether each smile was genuine or fake and how confident they were in their answers. A PowerPoint presentation on characteristics of genuine smiles and practice/feedback was used to train the participants. Participants also took a smile knowledge test. They were asked to mark which characteristics were present in genuine smiles. Our study found that training significantly improved the smile knowledge test scores, but did not have a significant effect on ability to distinguish between genuine and fake smiles or on confidence.

Information about the Authors:
All of the authors are sophomore psychology majors at Valparaiso University who plan to further their education after they attain their bachelor's degree. This is their first research presentation.

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