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Reaction Paper #4

 This articles focused in on the presidential debates between Obama and Romney. In the first debate was clearly won by Mitt Romney, and made many voters think that Romney could be the guy for the job. Obama struggled on the first debate and displayed poor nonverbal communication skills. Romney and Obama had very different approaches when it came to communicating with hand gestures, eye contact, facial expressions, and voice.

 President Obama used different hand gestures to communicate nonverbally and reinforce his verbal points. One tactic that he used was "finger-pointing" which was a surprising call because this type of aggressive gesture can be perceived negatively by the viewers. Mitt Romney used a hand gesture with his palm down and sweeping through the air towards Obama. Although both candidates utilized hand gestures, Romney was more successful in this category.

 When it comes to eye contact in this debate Obama did everything correctly. Although many people do not pay attention to eye contact in a debate, it is actually a very important nonverbal action. Eye contact does not say anything verbally, but maintaining eye contact can communicate that the speaker is confident and comfortable in the situation.

 Facial expressions are another key nonverbal that can drastically change people's perceptions of someone. In the first debate Romney dominated this category by smiling as much as he could. This technique makes him look like a happy and genuine person and more likeable then Obama who rolled his eyes at one point and dropping his head. In the second debate however Obama improved his facial expressions by holding his body forward, keeping his face up, and relaxing his face. Obama improved his facial expressions which in turn helped him win the second debate.

 The final nonvebal aspect of communication that was looked at in this debate would be voice. The pitch and tone of your voice can affect the way that people think of the person speaking. A soft voice can communicate a warmth to the listener, unfortunately Mitt Romney rarely uses this tactic. Obama was superior in this his use of voice changing his pitch depending on the situation which makes him a more dynamic speaker.
 In conclusion, the nonverbal aspects of the debate not only reinforce the verbal but drastically affect the voters perception of the speaker. Hand gestures, eye contact, facial expressions, and voice all play a role in the debate and how well the speaker uses them can help determine a winner. The first debate was won by Mitt Romney, but Obama improved his nonverbal's for the second debate and was viewed more positively. Finally, Obama and Romney have different debating styles but both used many nonverbal techniques to help argue their point of view.