

Interpersonal Communication Assignment

Individual Presentations

The purpose of these activities is to provide you with the opportunity to apply what you have learned to outside situations and to help you develop and practice your oral communication skills in interpersonal, small group, and public situations.

Presentations 1, 2, and 3

The format for the first three presentations is informal. You will participate in a roundtable discussion concerning the topics covered in the appropriate chapters of the text. Your particular contribution will be to find an event in the press (television, newspaper, magazine, or the internet) and discuss one aspect of interpersonal communication as it relates to the event. Your contribution should briefly describe the event, describe the interpersonal communication concept that would have helped the situation, and give an assessment of a potential outcome the concept would have had on the event. The presentation should not be longer than 2-3 minutes. A complete citation and notes or a one page outline on the event needs to be turned in. Grading will be based on selection of subject and citation, application of the concept to the event, and presentation skills.

Example:

Mel Gibson was arrested in 2006 for a suspicion of driving under the influence. What made the news, however, was his behavior and comments with the police. By some reports, he ranted about Jewish people and how they are responsible for the problems in the world. While this was not the first time he has made such comments, it was the most recent. One of the concepts discussed in our interpersonal communication text is stereotyping. Stereotyping is an exaggerated generalization about members of a particular group. Along with stereotyping comes prejudice and bigotry. Stereotyping is detrimental to effective interpersonal communication because it makes assumptions about people that may not be true. It also removes the individual person from interpersonal communication. If Mel Gibson would have been more culturally sensitive and avoided using stereotypes, his arrest would have been just another celebrity DUI rather than the public relations nightmare it turned out to be.

Presentation 4

Presentation 4 will be a bit more formal. You will spend 3-5 minutes outlining and discussing your final written assignment. Although the final paper is not due until the last day of class, by this point in the term you should have a good idea and working knowledge of the concepts you will write about. Your presentation should:

- Introduce your topic.
- Briefly outline the interpersonal concept.
- Briefly outline the research you have done.
- Explain how it is important to you in your life or to society in general.

A one page outline of your presentation and a bibliography should be provided to the instructor. Grading will be divided into three areas (topic, content, and presentation) and will take the following into consideration:

- Is the topic challenging? Is it appropriate for the audience and assignment? Was it narrowed sufficiently?
- Is there a clear, well-written thesis statement? Is the thesis statement true to the content of the presentation?
- Are the main points well supported? Are there a variety of sources? Did the presentation add to the knowledge of the audience?
- Did the presentation interest you? Was the interest sustained?
- Is the introduction identifiable? Does it gain attention? Does it suggest the significance of the topic to the audience? Does it preview the content of the presentation?
- Is the body of the presentation clearly organized? Are main points clearly identified? Does the presentation flow effectively? Is it cohesive?
- Did the conclusion signal the end of the presentation? Did it review? Was there a sense of closure?
- Was delivery poised and confident? Was there appropriate rate? Volume? Enunciation? Variety? Tone? Was there an effective use of pauses? Lack of vocalized pauses and interjections? Did the delivery detract from the presentation?
- Was eye contact sufficient? Was there an effective use of gestures? Physical movement? Were notes handled effectively? Did any movement detract from the presentation?