

# 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.

### Individual Presentations

The format for the three individual 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.*