

Communication Analysis Using Film Paper

PURPOSE

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate, in written form, your understanding of the communication constructs taught in this course. This should be accomplished through the analysis of media, and specifically communication between the characters in the film. This is not to be confused with a film analysis, which judges the effectiveness of a film and explains what happens within it. Rather, your analysis should focus on the elements of communication you have observed between the characters.

PROCEDURE

For the communication analysis paper you are required to analyze one of the films listed below and incorporate three sources into your analysis. Although the textbook may be used to support your points, it will not count as one of the three outside sources necessary. One of the three sources needs to be a scholarly journal article. The key to proper analysis will lie in your ability to describe the communication interaction that takes place between the characters in terms of the constructs and theories presented in the textbook and in lecture.

Depending upon the film chosen, constructs to consider might include: ethnocentrism, stereotyping, conflict management, types of power, individualism vs. collectivism, argumentativeness vs. verbal aggression, sexual harassment, ageism, sexism, communication competence, indiscrimination, polarization, empathy, equity theory, dyadic effect, stages of a relationship, relational dialectics, Johari's Window and more. It is a requirement to support your analysis with direct quotations from the characters in the film.

SPECIFICS

The Grading Rubric (also on D2L) Needs be Stapled to Final Typed Paper and then the APA Reference Page- with three sources listed (not including the film...you do not need to cite the film for the purposes of this assignment). The grading rubric provides specifics such as font, length, etc. See the syllabus schedule for the due date.

No Rough Draft Outline is Due- I am happy to look over rough drafts for students. The final class period for viewing the film is available (see syllabus schedule for exact date). If you prefer more advanced help, simply choose a different film for analysis and make an appointment with me during my office hours and have the documents printed out for me to view.

FILM CHOICES

I have to be familiar with the film to properly grade the paper. If a film on this list does not interest you, feel free to suggest another. I may have seen it, or could possibly view it prior to the end of the semester. Examples of communication to analyze are presented for many of the films listed. Similar concepts and questions can be used in analysis of other films. Please keep in mind these are meant to be questions you may consider, but are not meant to be the format of your paper or required topics/constructs to analyze.

Film choices include:

1. The Fighter	2. The Joy Luck Club
3. Gone with the Wind	4. Saving Private Ryan
5. How to Train Your Dragon	6. Rudy
7. The Blind Side	8. The Godfather
9. My Sister's Keeper	10. Band of Brothers
11. Little Miss Sunshine	12. Meet the Parents
13. Steel Magnolias	14. Toy Story I
15. Office Space	16. The Titanic
17. The Five Year Engagement	18. Waterloo Bridge
19. Rocky I	20. Star Wars (Original 1977 Version)
21. Grand Torino	22. Anna Karenina
23. The Time Traveler's Wife	24. Little Women

In Her Shoes

1. Explain the relationship development of the following: Rose and her co-worker Simon, Maggie and her Grandmother, Rose and her Grandmother. Use elements from Knapp's model of relational development.
2. Can you use information from any of our previous chapter discussions to explain the development of this relationship?
3. Apply what we have learned about listening to the relationships in the film.
4. Analyze the conflict in their relationship using terms from the chapter.
5. What kinds of conflict strategies do the following characters use: Rose, Maggie, Dad, Sidell, Simon, Grandmother, etc.
6. Were there any instances of verbal aggression?

Joe Somebody

7. Describe Joe's self concept at the beginning of the film and state how you believe it formed; for example, reflected appraisal, social comparison etc. Explain your answer.
8. Describe Joe's self esteem at the beginning of the film.
9. When does Joe's self-concept begin to change in the film and why does it change? Does his self-concept truly change? Why or why not?
10. What is Joe's co-workers' perception of him at the beginning of the film?
11. How does their perception change immediately after the parking lot incident?
12. How does it further change after the invitation to fight? Why does it change?
13. What do you see as "noise" between Joe and his co-workers? Between Joe and his daughter?
14. Give an example of how Joe is not a competent communicator.
15. You may analyze the film in regards to organizational communication constructs from our textbook (teams, leadership, conflict, etc.).

Slum Dog Millionaire

1. Apply intercultural and interpersonal concepts we have learned to these relationships.
2. Conflict strategies could be applied to the film.
3. One might apply leadership constructs to the film.
4. Consider attitudes, beliefs and values in regards to each character.

The Breakfast Club

1. Consider the roles, self esteems and self concepts of the 6 main characters: Claire, Andrew, Brian, Allison, Bender and Mr. Vernon.
2. What would you say their values, beliefs, and attitudes are?
3. What are the perceptions of each character about detention? How do these perceptions change?
4. How do they stereotype each other? Give three examples of this and explain the impact of each.
5. Do you think they will stay friends come Monday morning? Why or why not?
6. Apply intercultural and interpersonal concepts we have learned to these relationships.

Crash

1. Apply intercultural and interpersonal concepts we have learned to these relationships.
2. Conflict strategies might be applied to the film.
3. Discuss the racism and stereotyping directly relate to this film.
4. How does ethnocentrism apply to characters in the film?

The Bucket List

1. Apply intercultural and interpersonal concepts we have learned to these relationships.
2. Consider apply stages of relationships and how this relationship formed in an unconventional fashion.
3. Analyze the main characters and their values, beliefs, attitudes and ethics.

REMINDERS

- ❖ Please ask questions, either during or after class, if you are unclear on any aspect of this project. Closely follow the grading rubric to help ensure success is highly suggested.
- ❖ Please keep your writing professional. This assignment differs from your past "journals", which were meant to be more informal writing. Elevating writing to a more academic level is necessary, including refraining from the use of personal pronouns, contractions and slang.
- ❖ Writers must support their points with sound reasoning from the textbook as well as three additional sources. A minimum of one scholarly journal article must be cited and proper APA formatting to reference sources is required.
- ❖ If any additional help is needed, please let me know, as I am here to help and available by phone or email.

SPCH 1311 Communication Analysis Using Film Paper Grading Checklist (staple on top of paper)

Please staple on top of paper and use this document to check your own work by providing a checkmark next to any criteria that was not properly met.

Name: _____

Grade: _____/100

_____ Research Requirement was not met (3 sources: not including the film or textbook, 1 of which needed to be a scholarly journal article).

_____ Proper use of APA in-text citations to reference sources was not achieved.

_____ The paper needed to be stapled, 12pt font and 1.5 spaced with a minimum of 7 paragraphs.

_____ A requirement of the paper was to incorporate dialogue into the analysis in either direct quotation form or paraphrased dialogue.

_____ It is important to fully "flesh-out" how the communication is an example of certain terms or theories, by possibly presenting definitions from the textbook and/or examples from the film. The author's points needed to be fully supported.

_____ In academic writing it is important to avoid personal pronoun use (i.e. "I"). Keep the tone of the paper professional and remember it is a "communication analysis" not a "film review".

_____ It is important to proofread all papers, and use appropriate grammar.

_____ Proper Structure in Academic Papers include:

_____ For an introductory paragraph in academic writing that will serve as an analysis it is important to have a thesis stating the purpose of the paper (which for this assignment was to analyze the communication between the characters using terms and theories presented throughout the semester and in the textbook). It is also helpful to have a preview of the communication terms that will be applied to the communication analysis within the introductory paragraph.

_____ In an academic paper, it is best to have a conclusion with a review of main points and a final closing thought to leave the reader thinking.

APA Reference Page:

_____ As checked above, the research requirement was not met

_____ The page should be entitled References (and the word should be centered)

_____ Citations need to be in APA Style

_____ Source must be alphabetized

_____ Double space between sources only

_____ Refer to APA Guidelines regarding capitalization

_____ Refer to APA Guidelines regarding what to italicize

_____ Refer to APA Guidelines regarding page numbers

_____ Indent after first line (Use "hanging indents")

GRADING SCALE

100 – 90 = Perfect to Excellent Paper = A

89 – 80 = Great to Good Paper = B

79 – 70 = Average Paper = C

69 – 60 = Below Average Paper = D

59 – 50 = Base Requirements not Met = F