**Interpersonal communication paper**

**CST 110 – Jennifer Ashby**

By now you know that one of the greatest things about the field of communication is that you are surrounded by examples of what you are learning all the time. Apply your knowledge of communication concepts - interpersonal communication in particular - to identify and explain examples in a movie.

For this paper you need to choose one movie from the list below to serve as the basis for your analysis. The movie you select has to be on the list of approved movies. It will save you time later if you make notes of communication concepts you see while you are watching the movie.

Select five different concepts from the list below that are evident in your movie. Your paper should be a definition of each concept and then a discussion of the scene from the movie that is an example of that concept, and then a discussion of why this scene is an example of the chosen concept.

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| “I” statements | Indirect language | Pseudolistening |
| Affect Displays | Internal noise | Pygmalion gifts |
| Aggressive behavior | Jargon | Regulators |
| Androgyny | Johari window | Relationship rules theory |
| Assertive behavior | Leave-taking behavior | Relationship stages |
| Attraction theory | Locus of control - internal or external | Repetition |
| Avoidance | Lose-Lose Problem Solving | Roles |
| Beltlining | Manipulation | Self-disclosure |
| Body adornment | Marking language | Self-fulfilling prophecy |
| Conflict resolution | Marking status | Self-monitoring |
| Connotative Language | Masking | Social exchange theory |
| Constructive criticism | Mnemonics | Sublanguage |
| Cultivation theory | Olfactics | Substituting nonverbal |
| Denotative Language | Paralanguage | Territoriality |
| Disclaimers | Paraphrasing | Types of disclaimers |
| Emblems | Parasocial relationship | Types of excuses |
| Ethnocentrism | Passive behavior | Types of love (eros, etc.) |
| Eye avoidance | Passive listening | Types of power (referent, etc.) |
| Feedback | Passive-aggressive behavior | Win-Win Problem Solving |
| Flattery | Personal space | Withdrawal |
| Gunnysacking | Praise | Principles of communication |
| Halo effect | Primacy-recency effect | (but you must specify) |
| Illustrators | Principle of least interest |  |

For the paper, you should choose five different interpersonal communication concepts and five different scenes from one movie. After viewing the film, write a paper in five segments - one for each concept/scene/analysis - with the following sections:

**Explanation of Concept**: Identify the concept you have found in your movie and explain the concept in your own words. The explanation should be more than just copying a definition out of the book or online. You need to explain the concept in your own words. The purpose of this section of the paper is to make it clear that you completely understand the concept, not just that you can repeat the definition so keep that in mind while you are writing this section. It might be helpful to provide an example of the concept to make it clear that you understand the concept. Be sure that when I am reading your explanation I can see that you completely understand what you are talking about.

**Scene**: Provide a description of the scene you are analyzing. Although I have seen the movies, you will need to write a clear enough description of the scene for me to understand what is happening at that moment and what you are seeing in the scene that you are analyzing. This means that you might need to include dialogue, a description of nonverbal, a description of the setting, or events that happened prior to this scene that are relevant. Include enough information for the reader to understand exactly what is happening here. You need to have a different scene for each concept.

**Analysis**: Explain how this scene is an example of the concept you have chosen. Exactly how are the people in the movie using the concept or how is the concept clearly illustrated here? You should demonstrate that not only do you understand the concept, but you understand it so well you can competently identify it in action. Your description needs to be complete enough to convince me that your concept fits this scene. I might have another concept in mind when I watch that scene in the movie so it is very important that you write an analysis that makes it clear why your definition also fits this scene. Your analysis should be so strong there is no doubt to any reader that this scene is the perfect fit for this concept.

*Further tips for your paper:*

1. Be sure you have selected concepts that you understand. If you are confused or unsure about a concept, chances are you won’t be able to pick a scene that correctly illustrates the concept.
2. Your paper should be single-spaced in 12 point font.
3. The paper should be as long as it needs to be to accomplish the description and analysis detailed above. I would think it would take about a page per concept but your paper might be longer or shorter than that. This paper is not graded based on length, it will be graded based on your demonstration of understanding the concepts and applying them to a “real life” example. Of course, spelling and grammar will also be a part of your grade.
4. The first and third sections are the main basis of your grade since those are the sections that show your actual knowledge and application of concepts we have covered. It is not likely that one or two sentences will be enough for a good grade. These two sections are what really count in this paper.

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| 10 Things I Hate About You |
| 13 Going on 30 |
| 28 Days |
| 40 Year Old Virgin, The |
| 50 First Dates |
| About a Boy |
| Akeelah and the Bee |
| American Pie 1 |
| American Pie 2 |
| Anchorman |
| Baby Mama |
| Bachelor Party |
| Back to School |
| Back to the Future 1 |
| Beverly Hills Cop 1 |
| Beverly Hills Cop 2 |
| Birdcage, The |
| Blades of Glory |
| Blast From the Past |
| Blind Side, The |
| Brady Bunch Movie 1, The |
| Brady Bunch Movie 2, The (A Very Brady Sequal) |
| Center Stage |
| Cherokee Kid, The |
| Chicago |
| Christmas Story, A |
| Coming to America |
| Corrina, Corrina |
| Dave |
| Dead Poets Society |
| Defending Your Life |
| Deuce Bigalow |
| Diary of a Mad Black Woman |
| Dirty Dancing |
| Dr. Horrible's Sing-A-Long Blog |
| Driving Miss Daisy |
| Enchanted |
| Ferris Bueller' Day Off |
| Fast Times at Ridgement High |
| Few Good Men, A |
| Field of Dreams |
| Fifth Element, The |
| Fools Rush In |
| Four Weddings and a Funeral |
| The Full Monty |
| Galaxy Quest |
| Ghost Town |
| The Great Debaters |
| Groundhog Day |
| Hairspray (original movie with Divine) |
| Hairspray (musical with John Travolta) |
| Hannah and Her Sisters |
| Hitch |
| The Holiday |
| Housesitter |
| How Stella Got her Groove Back |
| Indiana Jones 1 (Raiders of the Lost Ark) |
| Indiana Jones 2 (Temple of Doom) |
| Indiana Jones 3 (Last Crusade) |
| Knights Tale, A |
| Kung Fu Panda |
| Last Days of Disco, The |
| Last Holiday |
| League of Their Own, A |
| Legally Blond |
| Liar Liar |
| Little Mermaid, The - VHS |
| Meet the Parents 1 |
| Meet the Parents 2 (Meet the Fockers) |
| Much Ado About Nothing |
| Multiplicity |
| Music and Lyrics |
| Notting Hill |
| O Brother, Where Art Thou? |
| Object of My Affection, The |
| Oceans 11 |
| Office Space |
| Old School |
| Orange County |
| Overboard |
| Pleasantville |
| Postcards From the Edge |
| Pretty Woman |
| Princess Bride, The |
| Pulp Fiction |
| Pursuit of Happyness |
| Ragtime |
| Remember the Titans |
| Romancing the Stone |
| School Daze |
| Sixteen Candles |
| Sleepless in Seattle |
| Spiderman 1 |
| Stand and Deliver |
| Star Wars 4 - A New Hope |
| Star Wars 5 - The Empire Strikes Back |
| Stranger Than Fiction |
| Sure Thing, The |
| To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything |
| Trading Places |
| Up |
| Wedding Singer, The |
| What Women Want |
| When Harry Met Sally |
| While You Were Sleeping |
| You've Got Mail |

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**Pygmalion gifts**

**Explanation of concept**

There are many purposes of communication which vary depending on the situation and the people involved. Sometimes people send a message to someone else which is designed to shape a person into whatever the sender would like that person to be. At other times these messages take the form of gifts that are given to a person. Although a gift should be something the recipient wants to receive, Pygmalion gifts are items the giver has chosen because of his or her own wishes and desires for the receiver. For example, if someone gives you a book on counting calories then you might assume that person wants you to lose weight. The gift comes with an implied message from the giver about how he or she wants you to behave or believe.

**Scene**

In “Working Girl” Tess receives two gifts from two different men. On her birthday her boyfriend, Mick, gives her sexy lingerie. In a different scene Jack gives Tess a new briefcase when they begin to work on their project together.

**Analysis**

The lingerie given to Tess by Mick is an example of a Pygmalion gift. Tess is not happy with this gift. Tess specifically says that just once it would be nice to get a gift she could wear outside of the house sometime. The implication is that Mick has given her lingerie on more than one occasion. Based on Tess’s comment, it is apparent that she didn’t ask for this gift so Mick has not taken her desires into account and the gift is actually something that serves him rather than the recipient. Furthermore, the lingerie indicates that Mick primarily sees Tess as a sexual partner and doesn’t recognize any other talents she might have such as her intelligence in business. Mick’s gift is a Pygmalion gift because it is definitely not something requested by Tess and it is something that shapes her into what Mick wants her to be, his girlfriend and sexual partner. In addition, Mick’s gift actually benefits him and is not a gift given just for Tess to enjoy. The lingerie is a gift that benefits the giver more than the recipient.

The briefcase from Jack, on the other hand, is an actual gift. Jack has taken the time to think about something Tess actually needs and has gotten it for her. And, unlike Mick, Jack expects nothing in return for his gift.