California State University, San Bernardino

CSUSB ScholarWorks

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Project Based Learning in Family Communication

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Family Communication Project
Team Project Portion

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Project Driving Question: How can family communication contribute to the well-being of family life?

There are two portions to this assignment – a group portion and an individual portion. This group portion will involve the same problem your group identified that can be addressed by family communication. You may use the same theory or a different theory from the one for the group portion. So, you will use a theory discussed in the text, for example, dialectics or systems theory, to describe how family communication can contribute the well-being of family life.

The final product – to be determined by the group – will be presented and discussed on either June 7th or June 10th. That product could be a video, podcast, website, infographic, etc.

Step 1: Describe today's family: describe today's family and explain what influences its well-being

Step 2: Define the problem: Identify a problem that inhibits or limits the well-being of family life.

Step 3: Research the problem: Gain a deeper insight into the problem while establishing criteria for measuring a solution's effectiveness in addressing the problem through family communication scholarship.

Step 4: Understand the stakeholders: Identify the perspectives, interests, and oppositions of the major groups and individuals that may influence or be impacted by the problem and/or potential solutions.

Step 5: Determine possible solutions: Determine and compare solutions in relation to possible impacts, stakeholders perspectives, limitations and feasibility. Consider how theory discussed in the text can contribute to your solution.

Step 6: Develop a plan: Work collaboratively to develop a plan to solve the problem – identify required resources and steps needed for implementation, and reflect on the potential outcomes of the solution.

Step 7: Implement the plan: Carry out the plan in collaboration with others, and keep records of the process and results.

Step 8: Summarize, evaluate, and reflect: Evaluate, reflect upon and communicate the plan's results, including intended and unintended consequences, and its effectiveness based on the criteria for success.

Family Communication Project
Individual Portion

There are two portions to this assignment – a group portion and an individual portion. This individual portion will involve the same problem your group identified that can be addressed by family communication. You may use the same theory or a different theory from the one for the group portion. So, you will use a theory discussed in the text, for example, dialectics or systems theory, to describe how family communication can contribute the well-being of family life. Your paper will address questions the same question as the group project: How can family communication contribute to the well-being of family life?

The assignment is designed to assist you in meeting Goal 1, Objective 2 or 3 (The relationship between theory and communication) for the COMM 499 senior project course.

The final paper should include the following sections:

1) Introduction and description of the problem that family communication can address. Identify and briefly describe the problem that you will be writing about.

2) Discussion of theory and application of theory. Include a discussion/description of the specific communication theory that is presented in this course—and don't forget to use appropriate references. Apply that theory to the problem in a way that explain how family communication can contribute to the well-being of family life. Explain how tenets of that theory can be used to understand or describe communication behaviors that contribute to well-being.

3) Conclusions & Recommendations. Discuss your conclusions and any recommendations you have for modifying the theory based on your application of that theory to the problem you identified. Discuss how this theory application influences your thoughts about family life.

You will want to include scholarly, academic references in all of these sections, but especially in the second and third section. For example, if you discuss how a family manages dialectic tensions, you would want to find scholarly sources that describe the concepts and discuss findings related to the management of dialectic tensions. Or, if you discuss how religion has influenced the family from a systems theory perspective, you will want to cite scholarly sources that you can use to compare and contrast how your family deals with religion. You must only use scholarly, academic sources. Excellent (i.e., A) papers cite more sources than average (i.e., C) papers. Average papers should cite 6-7 scholarly sources.

The paper should be typed with normal fonts (12 point), double-spaced, and one inch margins on all sides. As with all assignments, you should comply with APA guidelines. You are not writing about your personal experiences so do not write in first person. Consult other general guidelines found in the course syllabus. The final paper should be at least 5-6 pages in length.

Submit an electronic copy of your paper to TurnItIn through Blackboard under the "Assignments" section prior to the due date.

Feel free to show me drafts of your paper so that I can give you feedback. Utilize the resources of the Writing Center to ensure that your paper is completed at the collegiate level.

GROUP CONTRACT

Members

Block

Project

Task List

Group Constitution

Forward: This contract is a binding legal document and governs the group until the assigned project deadline. If the group separates, or a member is fired, the basic contract laws remain intact for both parties. However, being fired may cause work responsibilities to shift.

Article I: Absence Policy

a.   If a group member will be absent on a day in which work is due, they must tell another group member a day in advance and have all work that they are responsible for turned in. All group members must stick to the provided agenda to have the assignments completed on time. If there will be an unexpected absence, the group member is to complete the work from home and email another group member to let them know they are gone for the day.

b.   Group members will contact one another if they are absent for any amount of period during the time allotted for working on the projects.

Article II: Work Policy

a.   Any member that is mentally or physically disabled and can prove that they cannot complete the work assigned to them

alone they may acquire assistance from other group members to help complete it. This will only apply for work that is group work and not individual work, and work will only be finished by that group member, and the assisting group member will not write it.

b.   Each group member will work to the best of their ability, making sure to complete the work is up to standards, and that they completed it with punctuality.

c.   If a group member commits plagiarism, they are solely responsible and incur the punishment on their own.

Article III: Leadership

a.   At the beginning of the project, a leader will be voted upon democratically. If a group member is absent at the time of voting, they waive their right to participate in voting. The person who wins the most votes becomes the leader. If there is an unclear outcome (same number of votes for different people), the group will have no leader until one can be chosen by a revote.

b.   By being elected leader, the person must perform the following duties:

1. Organize group meetings.
2. Create and enforce a group agenda to govern group progress.
3. Organize any out of school project efforts.
4. Provide communication between group members in order to help individuals work towards the project goal.

If they fail to perform these duties, or another person is also carrying them out, a revote may be taken to determine whether to obtain a new leader.

c.   If a leader fulfills his or her duties, they will receive the 20 extra credit leadership points at the end of the project. The current group leader will receive these points, regardless of how

long they lead the group for. If no leader has been assigned, a majority vote will decide who receives the leadership points.

Article IV: Work Ethics

a.   If a group member does not complete work they were assigned, the punishment for the infringement will be of detriment solely to the group member at fault. No negative grading shall be given to any other group members.

b.   At the end of the project, 'hard workers' will be designated by means of a democratic vote. The people voted as the top two will each receive the ten bonus points. If one candidate is voted as hard worker by a margin of 75%, they will receive 20 points. If there is a tie, the group will discuss and come to resolution or else no points will be granted to the disputed individuals.

Article V: Member Dismissal

a.   The following conducts will result in a group member being able to be dismissed;
   i.   Incomplete or missing group work.
   ii.   Plagiarism or any form of cheating.
   iii.   If group member decides to leave under his or her own will.

b.   Any group member leaving under their own will be able to submit all their own work, while the other group members may not. Any group member fired for breaking any of the conducts under Article V-a (i-iii). will have their work taken from their possession to be used at the discretion of the original group, but not for the individual being fired. In addition, any fired member may not use any work completed by other group members, subject to punishment under Article 2-c.

c.   If a group member leaves under the stipulation of Article V-a (iv), they retain all the work they have already provided for the

group. The original group cannot use this work or it is subject to punishment under Article 2-c.

Article VI: Signature
By signing this contract the following group members abide to the articles above. If any member fails to abide by the articles of this contract, they may be fired from the group given at least a 50% vote in favor of firing the individual.

Project Leader
The group has elected _____ as the project leader under Article III.

Signature