Activity 1

Group conversations would have changed drastically if we were only able to write messages. Since the medium of communication changed, so will other components including feedback, connotation, context, and noise. Since he/she is writing instead of talking, this removes any gestures and/or emotions that could have been recognized by the receiver if the class were instead talking. Writing “masks” some of the receiver’s emotions, making it harder to gauge another’s feelings or mood. Leading to a higher chance of miscommunication. Noise level, or interference would have the most change. Instead of everybody busting out a conversation at once, the class would be very silent and focused on writing. Significantly reducing the level of noise, while also delaying the message.

Reverting to only texting an individual with no visual feedback would bring a similar experience when compared to writing messages. Except noise would be lowered even more, while the difficulty in understanding someone’s background/culture and emotions would increase. Verbal and nonverbal feedback would be non-existent, increasing the chance of a misunderstanding.

Two types of feedback I experienced during the activity was verbal and nonverbal. I responded to verbal feedback based off of the response, length of response, and tone of response. I responded to nonverbal feedback based off of facial expressions, body language, level of attention, etc. If the individual seemed interested, attentive, or asked specific questions, then I felt more relaxed. In contrast if I received short responses, and minimal interest, I was keen to change the subject and discover what it is that interests them.

Two types of interference I experienced was external and internal physiological. External noise was very intrusive to the conversation, because a multitude of people were talking all at once. It made it hard to focus, hear, and understand your partner. Internal physiological was a small addition to the external noise, including sleepiness, hunger, and occasional disinterest or anxiety. This also makes it difficult to interact with one another.

Methods of improving the discussion may include preparing questions beforehand, and asking more specific questions (Verbal). In addition decreasing distractions, keeping eye contact, annunciating and amplifying your voice, eating before class, and getting enough sleep (Nonverbal) can all aid in a friendly and smooth conversation.

During this activity I came to the realization that a conversation has so many roles and aspects to it that you wouldn’t normally think about. It’s astounding how many variables there are for understanding someone’s message, and the real meaning of it.