Clay Kuznia

Tabitha Simenc

Fundamentals of Communication

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The item that proved most difficult to identify was the last one. It was very small, and had appeared to be a brownish-tan color. Because I sat farther back it made it difficult to guess the object. Another difficulty in identifying the object had to do with my experience. In fact “We organize our perceptions according to prior experience, particularly to the principle or similarity and difference, and we rely on patterns.” (CITE HERE) Because of my lack of experience with the final object, I had a very hard time distinguishing it.

Furthermore most of the class was able to distinguish the soda can because a majority of students have seen/used one of those at some point in their lives. But what about the objects that some others (and myself) struggled on? Sometimes “… your experiences, cultures, beliefs, values, and other factors cause you to focus on the information that you find the most comfortable, credible, or compelling” (CITE HERE) This leads to some people thinking that an object is one thing, when really it is another. The first object, the apple, was really just a fake apple. I have had much more experience with real apples than fake ones, therefore my natural response was to assume it was a real apple. Another example is the garlic mincer. Some people have seen something similar to it, but are not entirely sure what its purpose is. Some think it can be used to extract juice from fruit, or even crack a nut. While others know that it is used to mince garlic. Those individuals have most likely have had prior experience with the object because “… our prior experiences frame our perceptions.” (CITE HERE)

Every bit of information we take in is based off of our senses. Signals that we receive from our senses can be interpreted in many different ways and, therefore, can lead to many different perspectives and/or feelings. A good way to limit perceptual error is to “… recognize that you might have a different perspective than someone else.” (CITE HERE) Plus there is another method called perception checking. This is a primitive communication tool and follows the “Ask questions first and make statements later.” (CITE HERE) protocol. The idea is to limit instant assumptions we all make when we interact with others. You don’t want to assume that someone is upset with you, instead you should validate that belief with perception checking.

I now understand more about why it is that people perceive situations or objects differently from one another. Background has much to do with this. Just thinking about another one’s perspective can give you some insight as to why they feel the way they do. I have also learned how to better communicate, and in the end reduce miscommunication.