

**M1D1: What Makes an Ideal Interpersonal Communicator**

Ashton Hellwig

Department of Mathematics

Front Range Community College

COM115: Interpersonal Communication

Richard Thomas

November 07, 2020 23:59:59 MDT

## **Abstract**

### **Overview**

Have you considered what makes an ideal interpersonal communicator? This is different than what makes a great public speaker! Remember, interpersonal communication is one-on-one communication rather than communication that reaches a broader group.

Before you can evaluate your own interpersonal abilities, it's essential that you identify good communicators and their skills.

In the movie clip appearing within the topic titled, "Self-Concept and Perception", which is accessible within the "Read/View" topic of Module 1 Content, the actor portraying President Roosevelt demonstrates several effective interpersonal communication skills. For example, while speaking to the actor portraying King George, he demonstrates his own difficulties with how people perceive him by moving around the room without the aid of his wheelchair.

What do you think makes an ideal interpersonal communicator? In this activity, we will explore this question in depth.

You should spend approximately 4 hours on this assignment.

**M1D1: What Makes an Ideal Interpersonal Communicator****Initial Post****Instructions**

1. In addition to your research, think of two people who you believe to be great interpersonal communicators: one in your personal life (a family member, friend, or loved one) and one in your professional life (a work or church colleague, professor, or customer). Also, think about the other skills the actor portraying President Roosevelt demonstrated in the movie clip.
2. Create a list of effective interpersonal communication skills, and post them on this discussion board. Include both skills you found in your readings and research and skills you have seen displayed by good communicators. **Include five (5) interpersonal communication skills with your list. Include a minimum of 2 → 3 sentences of explanation about each interpersonal communication skill and why the skill is important.**
3. **At the end of your Main Post, add a minimum of three resources which are correctly formatted in accordance with either APA Style or MLA Style (your choice).**
4. Read and Comment on the Main post submitted by at least two classmates who identified one or more interpersonal communication skills which are either the same as or different from yours. Did their research result in a change to your list? Why or why not?

**Qualities of an Ideal Interpersonal Communicator.** I believe that the ideal “interpersonal communicator”, if such a being exists, has qualities that make someone who one would *want* to go to for advice. Many times, people are afraid of asking for help or advice. More often than not, I feel most people are generally afraid of even describing experience or a situation to others for fear of judgement or someone coming out of the conversation feeling less intelligent or “smaller” as a person. The ideal communicator is one who someone can express what they are really thinking and believe with one another in a civilized manner and come out of the conversation with more knowledge than they had when beginning the interaction.

**Think of two people you consider to be good interpersonal communicators and explain why each one was chosen.** It is actually surprisingly difficult for me to think of one, let alone two examples of people I believe to be even half-way decent at the “art” of communication. Most everyone I know has not yet mastered this life-skill. In the video, it is clear listening is the priority for President Roosevelt throughout the conversation. He does, however, break some of the “Rules” described by Celeste Headlee in the Ted Talk shown in this module’s exploration component. In that video, she described the act of expressing your pain or relating your own situation to theirs. I find that *most, if not all* people (including myself) do this. After the King’s stuttering, the President showed how confident he is with his disability and how little it matters in how the public’s **perception** of you changes. In some instances this could be seen as comforting, but in others could be seen as a rude comparison or as putting off a more “look at me” attitude.

**Detailed List of Interpersonal Communication Skills.** There are many skills utilized by effective communicators depending on the nature of their interaction with the other individuals in question.

1. *A Strong Hold on Psychological Context*

- **Psychological Context** is maybe not so much an interpersonal communication “skill”, but rather it is an important concept for one to grasp in order to effectively communicate any message. Interpersonal communication deals with incredibly personal relationships and as such the environment’s context needs to be taken into

account in order to not prevent the delivery of your message due to the other party being unnerved or too stressed out to effectively understand what you are trying to convey (*Communication in the Real World*, 2013). Because interpersonal communication concerns all intimate and personal relationships, it is important that the speakers show an understanding of how one-another communicates and adjusts how they speak to best fit the situation.

2. *Enter Every Conversation with the intention to understand, rather than with the intention to reply*

- This skill is important and was described to us in Module 1's "*exploration*" content. The reason this is important is because, as noted in the next item, *listening* is **the** most important skill within the realm of interpersonal communication (Headlee, 2015). If one person is already conjuring their retort to what the other individual is saying, at that point they have stopped listening. If you are not listening, you cannot understand.

3. Effectively Utilize Silence

- Silence can be situational in its "*appropriateness*" within a conversation. In some situations, it can help bond the two individuals who are speaking whereas in others it can drive each other away (Gerd Antos & Eija Ventola, 2008, pp. 600). When appropriate, silence can even be an intimate and comfortable experience, rather than both a repulsive and anxiety-inducing one.

### Works Cited

*Communication in the real world* (Vol. 1.0). (2013). Saylor Academy. Retrieved November 5, 2020, from

<https://ccco.desire2learn.com/d2l/le/content/2828527/viewContent/31501976/View>

Gerd Antos, & Eija Ventola. (2008). *Handbook of interpersonal communication* [Issue: v. 2].

De Gruyter Mouton. [https://ccco.idm.oclc.org/login?url=http:](https://ccco.idm.oclc.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=274376&site=eds-live&scope=site)

[//search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=274376&site=eds-live&scope=site](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=274376&site=eds-live&scope=site)

Accession Number: 274376; OCLC: 316007044; Series Info: v. 2; Language: English

Headlee, C. (2015, May). *10 ways to have a better conversation*. Retrieved November 6, 2020, from

[https://www.ted.com/talks/celeste\\_headlee\\_10\\_ways\\_to\\_have\\_a\\_better\\_conversation](https://www.ted.com/talks/celeste_headlee_10_ways_to_have_a_better_conversation)

Michell, R. (2012, August 31). *Hyde park on hudson*. Retrieved November 4, 2020, from

<https://ccco.desire2learn.com/d2l/le/content/2828527/viewContent/31501949/View>

### Works Consulted

Kondo, J., Tomizawa, R., Jibu, T., & Kamide, K. (2020). Developing an interpersonal communication skill scale targeting female nursing students [Publisher: BioMed Central]. *BMC Research Notes*, 13(1), 1–6.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-020-4896-6>

*A primer on communication studies* (1.0). (2012). Saylor Academy. Retrieved November 5, 2020, from

<https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/a-primer-on-communication-studies/>