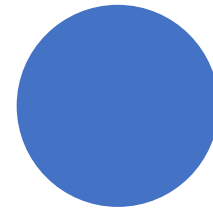


Interview Results

Charles Andrews
Interaction Design I
Fall Semester 2019



Overview



Background and purpose



Methodology



Participants



Findings



Conclusions

Background and Purpose

- Interviews were done in reference to Our Space, a website which would help facilitate communication and household tasks amongst roommates
- Main Interview Questions:
 - Where are you currently living and what is the space like? How many roommates do you have?
 - How do you currently communicate with your roommates? Did you set up a chores system when moving in?
 - Does anything get in the way of you or your roommates maintaining your home?
 - Are you or any of your roommates prone to passive aggression? How does this usually play out or affect your relationships if passive aggression is an issue?
 - Have there been any conflicts amongst you and your roommates? How did it play out?
- These interviews helped me gain an insight into the challenges and conflicts that come along with sharing a space with other people

Interview Methodology



Three interview were completed, one over the phone and two in-person

Two were done in person in Snell Library on Northeastern University's campus
One was done on the phone using Apple Facetime



In selecting the candidates, I wanted to find people that lived with more than 2 roommates as this usually is where communication becomes an issue



Interviews were semi-structured as each individual's living situation led to different issues and thus required specific follow up questions that could only be crafted as the interview unfolded

Participants

Participant 1

- 19 year-old female college student
- Lives with four other roommates in on-campus Northeastern apartment

Participant 2

- 20 year-old male college student
- Lives with three other roommates in on-campus Northeastern apartment

Participant 3

- 26 year old female
- Lives with three other roommates in shared house

Participant 1: Female College Student

Where are you currently living and what is the space like? How many roommates do you have?

- 5 roommates in an apartment with a fairly big kitchen and bathroom
- Three singles and one double
- She was previously friends with most of her roommates but one is someone she wasn't previously close with

How do you currently communicate with your roommates? Did you set up a chores system when moving in?

- When moving in, they made a google sheet to decide the chore rotation by week
- They utilize a What's App group chat to communicate about any issues related to the room
- Thinking of making a chore chart and putting it on the fridge because they don't look at the google sheet enough

Does anything get in the way of you or your roommates maintaining your home?

- Forgetting the chores and who's week it is because the chore chart isn't in their face enough
- Schoolwork will sometimes prevent them from making time for their chores

Are you or any of your roommates prone to passive aggression? How does this usually play out or affect your relationships if passive aggression is an issue?

- Roommates try to be open about issues so they don't lead to further conflict and passive aggression
- There have been times where people have posted images of dirty showers in their group chat or talked to other roommates about how one of their roommates isn't doing their part
- Hard to air grievances because they're friends and don't want to ruin that

Participant 2: Male College Student

Where are you currently living and what is the space like? How many roommates do you have?

- 4 roommates in an apartment with 2 doubles and a medium sized kitchen and bathroom
- Was previously friends with all of his roommates but the two in the other double didn't know his roommate going into the new school year

How do you currently communicate with your roommates? Did you set up a chores system when moving in?

- When moving in, they didn't make a plan for household duties and but plan to do it due to minor conflicts
- They communicate through their group chat and in person about chores
- Similar to his previous year's apartment where they only cleaned if something was really dirty
- Last year his direct roommate did not clean at all and was very sloppy and a bad communicator

Does anything get in the way of you or your roommates maintaining your home?

- School work and outside responsibilities sometimes prevent cleaning but they try to clean up after themselves at all times
- They don't have specific weeks for doing chores so that leads to people not pitching in
- Roommates are on different schedules so there isn't always time to go over chores

Are you or any of your roommates prone to passive aggression? How does this usually play out or affect your relationships if passive aggression is an issue?

- Current roommates try to be open about issues so they don't lead to further conflict and passive aggression
- Last year his roommate was passive aggressive towards him and would not reveal how he felt and would let it bottle up
 - This led to a lot of conflict and frequent disagreement, especially since the participant's roommate never cleaned up after himself and had poor self hygiene
- One of his roommates this year is very intense about cleaning and has talked to him privately about things that bother him about the other roommates and this has recently started to annoy the participant

Participant 3: Millennial Female

Where are you currently living and what is the space like? How many roommates do you have?

- Currently lives in a shared house in a not so great neighborhood in Washington DC
- House has bathroom that can only fit one person at a time and very small kitchen
- Has three other roommates that the landlord found through Craigslist and the participant did not know before they moved in

How do you currently communicate with your roommates? Did you set up a chores system when moving in?

- She tries to keep open communication about issues as much as she can but has become fed up with being only one contributing
- She has tried to set up a chore chart on the fridge but it was forgotten about within a month
- Roommates make somewhat of an effort to clean when she confronts them about their habits but many times will forget due to their job and other responsibilities

Does anything get in the way of you or your roommates maintaining your home?

- Her roommates don't have the best work ethic or seem privileged when it comes to cleaning
- Participant is the only female in her home and many of the roommates in a way assume she will do the cleaning and are very relaxed about having a clean home
- She tries not to get to aggressive but their habits do annoy her

Are you or any of your roommates prone to passive aggression? How does this usually play out or affect your relationships if passive aggression is an issue?

- Her roommates and her are usually direct when it comes to handling conflict but there are usually many conflicts over chores
- They admit when they're at fault but some roommates tend to avoid each other and minimize their contact with the others they are living with

Conclusions

- Through the interview process, I have learned more about what it is like to live in a shared space with many people
- Roommates that know each other going in are less likely to be direct in conflict because they don't want to hurt friendships
 - Roommates that don't know each other are sometimes more likely to experience conflict as they don't have the same habits or frame of minds when it comes to what they want their space to look like
- Conflict is usually handled in a passive aggressive way, even though many times people feel they want to be direct when they have issues
- Many roommates would like a way to know if they are being a considerate roommate
- There are mixed opinions about whether being able to anonymously air a grievance about a roommate would be constructive to household maintenance or maintaining healthy relationships
- When roommates are on different schedules or have different lifestyles, it leads to conflict
- In a given group of roommates, there is usually someone who feels the most strongly about maintaining a clean home