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Chapter 1 Activity B

For this assignment, you will watch a short scene from the film *The Great Santini* and apply communication concepts to it.

**Guidelines**

1. Read the assigned materials from Chapter 1 (*Communication in the Real World*). From [Section 1.3](https://open.lib.umn.edu/communication/chapter/1-3-communication-principles/), review the six communication principles that are amplified. (The specific principles are also identified in the Chapter 1 PowerPoint slides.) From [Section 1.4](https://open.lib.umn.edu/communication/chapter/1-4-communication-competence/), look over the definition of communication competence and the 10 skills that the NCA promotes for college students.
2. Watch the trailers for the 1979 film *The Great Santini* and the specific clip that you have been assigned. **A YouTube playlist and scene assignments are included on the Canvas assignment page; a video link for each scene is also included on the Google Slides.** For additional context about the film and its characters, two additional website links are posted with the movie clip links.
3. After viewing your assigned scene, provide your comments as directed on the lower portion of this document.
4. Submit this worksheet in Canvas.

*Respond to the following prompts about the movie clip you have been assigned.*

1. Explain how the scene you were assigned reflects at least TWO of the six communication principles identified in Section 1.3 of the textbook. What actions, behaviors, or comments by characters in the scene amplify those communication principles? What impact do they have on communication in the scene?

* Communication is guided by culture and context.
  + These children are in the context of being part of military families, so the boy has learned to salute when is expected of him. The drill sergeant has learned his attitude and demeanor from the military culture he’s been surrounded by.
* Communication is learned.
  + The children have learned to survive among the military attitudes they’ve grown up around. As demonstrated by the boy who gets up and salutes, even if he may not believe in the salute, he knows that it will appease the drill instructor. The other children know not to speak up or interrupt unless it is “Yes sir.” The instructor as well has been hardened by war and has never learned or forgotten how to talk to children. He instead talks to them like he has soldiers, and in turn refers to them as hogs, which the children won’t respond honestly to.

2. Comment on the extent to which communication competence is depicted in the scene. From Section 1.4 of the textbook, choose at least TWO of the competencies identified by the National Communication Association (NCA) that characters in the movie scene follow or violate. Explain how those specific competencies improve or worsen the overall communication outcome of the scene.

* Demonstrate Credibility.
  + He’s establishing credibility with his dress and his demeanor. He’s dressed as a decorated officer of war, and trying to establish credibility as a guardian to the children in that way. Judging by the response of a couple of the kids at the end of the scene he doesn’t seem to establish any credibility in that way. Saying he’s, “no Rhett Butler” seems to say she doesn’t see any depth to his character other than that of a military sergeant, and almost doesn’t seem to have humanity beyond that.
* Communicate ethically.
  + Easily proven he does not communicate ethically by referring to the children as if they were in basic training in the army. Calling them hogs and soldiers only serves him and ordering them around like animals doesn’t help meet their needs as individuals, and certainly doesn’t help them feel like they can be open with him.

3. Provide some advice that you would offer to characters in the scene about their communication skills?

* I would advise the military officer to approach the children with a little more humanity, treating them as “hogs” may seem soft to him, but he would get more of an honest response out of them, rather than them having to express their true feelings behind his back. I think his language and attitude is the biggest flaw in their communication.