Name: Gunnar Forcier Oral / Interpersonal Communication: Groups

Chapters 13 and 14 Assessment (45 points) – the grading rubric is posted with the assignment in Canvas.

*Note: A list of film and television series suggestions/possibilities is posted with this assignment in Canvas.*

*Directions: After reading Chapters 13 and 14 complete this assignment. Provide your response for each of the following questions or prompts. Submit this assignment in Canvas by the designated due date.*

1. What movie/television show did you watch for this assignment?
   1. Parks & Recreation
2. Considering the overall theme (focus) of the movie or TV show, **what type of group did the main characters represent, task- or relational-oriented (Section 13.1)? Briefly explain** how you arrived at that choice based on characteristics provided in the textbook.
   1. I would say the main characters represented a relational-oriented leadership style. They focused on individuals performing a task and often acted as mentors for the other characters.
3. For the main group in the film/television show you chose, **briefly explain to what extent the five stages of group development were depicted: forming, storming, norming, performing, and adjourning (Section 13.2)**. *(Note: depending on the film/TV series, all the stages may not be represented; however, a few should still be evident.)*
   1. Forming: The initial stage is the process of putting a team together. This is demonstrated throughout the show when trying to bring in new members to the team like when Chris and Ben premiered on the show in season 3.
   2. Storming: There is constant conflict within the show often as a source of comedy between the characters. Leslie is the main guide that acknowledges and works through personal conflicts with all of the characters.
   3. Norming: Later in the show you can see a lot of the characters develop personal connections with eachother and everyone has a sense of belonging in the team. All of the characters respect their shared leaders in Leslie and Ron. They’re comfortable with eachother and some develop intimate relationships with eachother.
   4. Performing: The characters have a lot of empathy with eachother as the show goes on. Leslie in particular has empathy for everyone in the group and most characters accept their respective roles.
   5. Adjourning: In the shows later seasons Leslie is moving on from the Park & Rec department to pursue a political career. This affects all of the characters greatly as they’ve developed a real relationship with eachother and, while they wish her well, she will be dearly missed by them all.
4. **Briefly analyze the group dynamics** depicted in the film/television show you chose. **Address at least TWO (2) of the following aspects: task cohesion, group climate, group socialization, conformity and/or groupthink (if noticeable), conflict and resolution of conflicts (Section 13.3)**. *(Note: You are not expected to address all those concepts; at least two or three would be reasonable.)*
   1. Task Cohesion: A main focus in many episodes is how team members may have great social cohesion, but aren’t great at completing a task.
   2. Group Socialization: Ann Perkins arrives on the show and has conflict with a core member of the team in April Ludgate. She adapts throughout the show and learns to adjust to the group members norms.
5. Members of groups and teams possess a variety of power. **Identify at least TWO (2) different characters in the group and identify at least ONE (1) type of power that each of those characters possesses (Section 14.1).** Next, describe how they demonstrate that power with a specific example for each.
   1. Character 1 (Power and Example): Chris Traeger: This character has legitimate power and threatens to cut funding for Leslie Knope’s projects as he oversees solving the city’s crippling budget deficit.
   2. Character 2 (Power and Example): Ron Swanson: This character has legitimate power. He is Leslie’s direct supervisor and, in the Pilot, he denies Leslie’s requests to pursue turning a construction pit into a park because he doesn’t believe the parks department should build parks.
6. Consider the roles and behaviors of significant characters that either promoted or inhibited the successful completion of the group’s task(s). Accomplish the following for those roles: 1) **identify** three characters and their roles; 2) **determine** each character’s specific role from the category; 3) **explain** what each character did to influence your choice. ***(Section 14.2 offers an overview of these roles.)***
   1. **Character 1** 
      1. Name: Leslie Knope
      2. Type of Role (Task-related, Maintenance [Social], or Negative): Maintenance
      3. Specific Role from within ii (above): Social-Emotional Leader
      4. Character’s actions that influenced your choice: Leslie is an ambitious person who works with the department throughout the show to complete projects. She brings everyone together and is well liked. She also reassures and supports the task leader, Ron, at many points in the show.
   2. **Character 2**
      1. Name: Ron Swanson
      2. Type of Role (Task-related, Maintenance [Social], or Negative): Task related.
      3. Specific Role from within ii (above): Task Leader
      4. Character’s actions that influenced your choice: High status in the group overseeing the park’s department.
   3. **Character 3**
      1. Name: Tom Haverford
      2. Type of Role (Task-related, Maintenance [Social], or Negative): Negative
      3. Specific Role from within ii (above): Withdrawer
      4. Character’s actions that influenced your choice: Ron says of him that he doesn’t do a lot of work, shows zero initiative, and never wants to go that extra mile.
7. Briefly describe how the **five steps of the group problem-solving process (Section 14.3)** are depicted in the film/television show (even if it’s limited to resolving the “problem” depicted in an individual episode or a movie that might leave the resolution open).
   1. Define the Problem: The city is desperate for money so budget cuts are having to be made. Leslie keeps hitting roadblocks in the form of Chris and Ben who limit her to what she can do with projects.
   2. Analyze the Problem: Leslie must constantly prove her projects are worth funding to the organization and would like to generate some more revenue for the town so she could potentially fund more projects.
   3. Generate Possible Solutions: Leslie comes up with the idea to bring back the Harvest Festival from the 80s to generate buzz and revenue in Pawnee.
   4. Evaluate Solutions: She must give a speech to the city to demonstrate its worth and be critically evaluated by the citizens of Pawnee to determine if the festival is worth having. She runs into roadblocks like a Native American man wanting to move the festival last minute due to it taking place on a burial ground.
   5. Implement and Assess the Solution: Leslie takes a great number of steps like bringing in Little Sebastian. She also battles rumors put forth by citizens of hauntings and curses, but ultimately succeeds in putting on the festival to great success.
8. Provide a brief assessment (approximately one paragraph) of the group’s performance in accomplishing (or attempting to accomplish) its task(s). **At a minimum, include the following: success/failure of task completion and goal accomplishment; dynamics of the group/team members’ interactions; lessons the audience can learn about groups/teams from viewing the film or television episode.**
   1. The show is full of great advice and wisdom about leadership and groupwork. Leslie finds she doesn’t receive as much acknowledgement and gratitude from her team as compared to the amount of work she puts in. She learns from Ron that, ultimately, in a workspace we perform work for the sake of work, and rarely for acknowledgment. We saw how personality differences cause conflicts in a team when Pawnee and Eagleton city employees merge. Team leaders always need to be prepared for personality conflict among members and should have activities to try to reduce further conflicts. We also see how Leslie is a great supporter of her coworkers, and a great social-emotional leader for them.