**COM-115 Assignment 5**

**Interpersonal Communication Interviews and Analysis**

**Part 1:  Interpersonal Communication Interview Form**

Instructions:

* Conduct two separate interviews.  Each person interviewed will be from two different parts of your life.
* Select one person to interview that is from your family.
* Select one person with whom you work with or that you know who works in an environment separate from the home. For the purpose of the interview, it is best for the work interviewee to work away from the home to ensure that they are often communicating in a face-to-face and virtual medium with co-workers.
* Use the interviewing questions below.
* Record the responses.

The purpose of this assignment is to help you further understand the similarities and differences in family and work interpersonal communication through comparison and analysis.

**Family Interview**

*Note*: Begin the interview by thanking your interviewee for their willingness to be interviewed. Tell them about this Interpersonal Communication class, explain the definition of interpersonal communication, and inform him/her of the purpose of the interview assignment.

Record the responses to the interview questions below:

1. Tell me about your family.

I have an odd relationship with my family. My parents had me at a later age than average, so I feel they weren’t not as involved in my life as the were my brothers, who are a lot older than me(10+ years). I try to talk to my mom, however, my dad and I are not that close. My brothers and I are not very close. We have sort of a dysfunctional relationship.

1. If you had to define family, what would your definition be?

Family should mean, individuals that you can rely on. People who aren’t afraid to tell you the truth but also consider your feelings. People who have your best interests in mind.

1. Imagine you are with your immediate family at a recent gathering. What does the communication look and sound like?  Please share topic(s) of conversation and encourage adjectives along with who is talking and to whom.

My dad speaks loudly. The conversations normally start off as light banter and jokes. Sometimes controversial topics come up we are open to each other’s opinions. Most of the time we can have a heated discussion and not actually get mad at each other over the topic.   
One example is… One of my favorite things to do with my mom is tongue twisters. At my mom’s recent birthday (dad was not present), I asked my brother if he knew a tongue twister and he said dad taught one to him when he was young and so we called dad. So after we forced my mom to attempt the tongue twister, we call dad. He answered and we asked him to say the tongue twister. He laughed and said he couldn’t believe that we remembered that from when we were little. He continued to say recited it perfectly.

1. What are your family values?  Explain why these values are important to your family.

Independent, humor, hardwork. My family thinks that you have to be sure of your self and do your own thing or you are going to get left behind, they aren’t going to baby you. We like to roast each other, jokes and being able to make each other laugh are probably the thing that we all enjoy the most about each other…for hardwork… it doesn’t matter really what material things you have, it matters that you are trying. Whatever life throws at you it matters that you are trying.

1. Who is the “boss” in your family?  What is it like to be in his/her leadership?  If there is not a “boss”, how would you describe the direction of communication?

My parents are divorced so I wouldn’t say that there isn’t a specific boss. Plus, all of my siblings and I are growing so we kind of do our own thing.

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being highest, how would you rate your family’s adaptability?  Explain your thoughts.

Generally, my immediate family struggles with depression and anxiety. However, when hard times happen, we will find a way to make things work. For my thoughts, my brother worked for a commercial mechanic shop(a chain store) and he didn’t like the way that the shop was ran. He decided to start his own shop with a partner and run it the ‘right’ way. I would say a 7 or 8 for the scale.

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being highest, how would you rate your family’s cohesion?  Explain your thoughts.

My family can go a long time without talking. When we pick back up though, its like we never went that long without talking. I talk to my mom weekly. My dad and bothers though will vary. It may be months. I would maybe think a 5 as neutral for the scale.

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being highest, how would you rate your family’s communication? Explain your thoughts.

This is also tough. I am not extremely open about a lot of things in life so I keep a lot of things to myself. But when I do open up, my family is accepting for whatever I have to say. But like I said, sometimes we go quite a while without even talking. I would maybe think a 5 or neutral again for my family’s communication…

1. How would you describe the use of technology in your family and among family members?

I am definitely the most advanced with technology. My parents are in their 60’s(roughly 40 years older than my interviewee). My dad is a little more ahead than my mom.

1. What are the friendships like in your family?

I feel like with my mom…her health isn’t good so..I feel like I spend more time with her than any other family members. I don’t talk to my dad a lot but we get along like friend do. I don’t get to spend a lot of time with my brothers but when we do, I feel like we are really good friends. When we do get to spend time together, we talk a lot and it is usually a good time. We share a lot of information with each other.

**Work Interview**

*Note*: Begin the interview by thanking your interviewee for their willingness to be interviewed. Tell them about this Interpersonal Communication class, explain the definition of interpersonal communication, and inform him/her of the purpose of the interview assignment.

Record the responses to the interview questions below:

1. Tell me about your work.

Focused patient assessments to improve quality of life to sum it up. I work with a team of people where half of the team assesses a patient and the other half diagnose. We then build a plan of care for the patient.

1. If you had to define work, what would your definition be?

I would say hours spent to provide for my well-being. Work also gives me a purpose.

1. Imagine you are with your co-workers at a recent meeting.  What does the communication look and sound like? Please share topic(s) of conversation and encourage adjectives along with who is talking and to whom.

We have physicians and practitioners bringing to light problems in the workplace and attempting to find a solution. With the ongoing coronavirus, one example of a conversation is stopping mode of transmission. We have a group of ‘bosses’ that are collaborating with all of the nursing staff.

1. What are your workplace values?  Explain why these values are important to the workplace.

Honesty, integrity, and motivation. Honesty is important for the safety of the patient, integrity is the discipline that sustains our good, productive work. Motivation keeps everyone at work at a positive mindset. Positivity is contagious.

1. Who is the “boss” in your work?  What is it like to be in their leadership?

My particular ‘boss’ is Dr. Hoyt. He is an intense boss with little room for error.

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being highest, how would you rate the ability of your co-workers to adapt?  Explain your thoughts.

I would say my co workers are a 10. They are constantly being faced with new tasks and seem to have a good solution for every problem I have seen them face.

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being highest, how would you rate the cohesion among co-workers?  Explain your thoughts.

I would say my co-workers have a cohesion of a 6 or 7. “Sometimes one bad apple spoils the whole batch”. For the most part my co workers all work together great, but every now and then there are some disputes that could be avoided.

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being highest, how would you rate the communication among your co-workers?  Explain your thoughts.

I would rate my co workers an 8 on communication. It is looked down upon to have a blind spot in your education. Meaning, asking for advice is somewhat discouraged. Communication is strong among my peers and we all work hard to help each other out.

1. How would you describe the use of technology in your work and with co-workers?

Everything is computers in my workplace. In a 12-hour shift, 9 hours are spent on the computer charting vitals, assessments, and medications. Technology is a must in medicine.

1. What are the friendships like in your work?  Any work romances?

I worked with my girlfriend today actually. Most couples that work together have figured out a work/home relationship. This is how you avoid bringing work home with you. Half of all of my co workers that extends further than work.

**Part 2:  Interpersonal Communication Interview Analysis**

**Compare and Contrast Interviews**

Based on the two separate interviews you conducted, one with a family member and one with a coworker, compare and contrast the responses.

Create a bulleted list below using complete sentences to compare and contrast at least eight of the responses.

* Communication is vastly different levels of communication. With family, if you don’t attempt at all, there is not communication. You don’t really have a choice at work.
* Use of technology is again, a choice in your personal life but starting to become a need at work. My particular family interviewee says she is good with technology but none of her family is at all. Most workplaces are becoming computerized so I wasn’t surprised with the answer from the coworker.
* Adaptability is somewhat comparable between the two. Life changes a lot so in personal life or work, you need to be able to adapt to changes.
* Cohesion is kind of like the communication bullet. Some families choose to be a cohesive unit. Others, like my interviewee, do not. At work, you have to have at least average cohesion to be efficient.
* Work places almost always have specific person who is the boss, while families vary
* Meetings or gatherings with family can have several conversations happening about all sorts of topics or to catch up with each other. Work meetings happen to identify and find a solution to specific problems or topics
* Values in family and at work are similar though. Everyone has expectations out of fellow people whether it be in your personal life or at work.
* Friendships within your family and friendships at work are also similar. Even within your own family, you seem to filter through everyone and become closer to some more than others. This is similar at work

**Analysis**

Answer the following questions based on your break down of the compare and contrast of the interviews:

* What differences exist between the overall communication patterns and the leadership communication patterns in the interviews?

Right off the bat with these interviews, I realized that family relationships patterns are more of a choice whereas work relationships are not a choice. At work, even if you don’t have to have barely any relationship, you still work with that person almost every day and have to find a way to be efficient as a team. I had never really thought about family relationships being a choice and work relationships being a must. Even Leaderships in families versus work areas, if a ‘boss’ of your family tells you to do something and you don’t want to do that particular thing, you just don’t have to talk to that person for a while. At work, you will guaranteed see your boss and they will, most of the time, follow up to make sure that you listened.

* Based on what you are learning in this course and your comparison, what advice would you give to the family member to improve interpersonal communication?

Based on the interview of my relative, I would say that to improve interpersonal communication with her family, she needs to make more attempts to be involved with her family. She says she has good reasoning for not being as involved with her family as she should be. Says that non of the family members are that close since her mom and dad divorced and a sibling moved across country. With the huge generational difference between her and her immediate family, I can see why this would be tough. I would say that she needs to reach out more often and simply just ask how a someone is doing. Like a call to a family member once a week and just ask how they are doing. I can see how it would be kind of hard to do that though and she doesn’t seem to have much interest in getting closer with her family.

* Based on what you are learning in this course and your comparison, what advice would you give to the work interviewee to improve interpersonal communication?

I would say that even though it might be looked down upon to ask questions at work (for the sake of someone considering you dumb or something of the sort), he needs to learn as much as he can at this point in his career. He has a certificate to do what he is doing and is still in school for a degree. If he picked out a co worker that has more experience in the field and explained to them that he is trying his best to learn everything that he can. I am sure that if he was open and heartfelt about what he is saying, the seasoned co worker with be very supportive and show him everything that is possible.