

# Application Exercise One

**Due Date:** Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> at beginning of class.

**Format:** One submission per group. Submission must be typed, stapled in the upper left corner and use standard APA or MLA guidelines as discussed on the library link regarding paper formatting. The length of the body of the paper should be 4 pages. This does NOT include the title page, the reference page or any appendices. You also MUST attach a group assessment form with your consensus ratings of how you worked together as a group. Your self-assessment will NOT influence your grade! It simply provides an important time to reflect on how you communicated as a group and gives me some sense of how things went for you.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is to foster application of our course material. This effort at application should foster greater understanding of the material and also help you see how all of our course material can be relevant to our lives as communicators.

**Keep Your Focus:** Be sure that your team has agreed on which assignment to do and that you fully understand the directions and criteria for the application exercise you have chosen.

**Options:** You have three options for this first application exercise. It is best to pick your team and decide which option as quickly as possible. That will allow you to spend more of your time completing the project, proofreading, taking a draft to the writing center, etc.

**Option One:** View a minimum of two commercial films that focus on friendships. They need not be popular films. In some ways the smaller films are often better since they are sometimes more realistic. You will likely need to watch each film twice. One of the films should focus on same sex friendships (for example, *Steel Magnolias* for women and *Dead Poet's Society* for men) the other should focus on male/female relationships either romantic or platonic (there are many here such as *Patch* and *Tortilla Soup*, but try to avoid cliché stuff such as *You've Got Mail*). After viewing the films once, discuss what communication concepts you saw in the films such as relational dialectics, perceptual differences, etc. Once you have decided which concepts are key concepts in the film, watch the film again and note the best examples to discuss in the paper. You should offer at least 5 SPECIFIC (with at least two coming from each film) connections between textbook concepts and specific dialogue or scenes in the films. You will likely need to quote dialogue. You do not need to have any outside sources beyond the actual films and our textbook but incorporation of additional sources on communication concepts or credible reviews and commentary on the film will be rewarded if they add to the analysis. Here are some films that should give you some idea of what kinds of films to look for: *Higher Learning*, *Barber Shop*, *Wag the Dog*, *The Truman Show*, *Ordinary People*, . . . and many more!

**How I Will Grade The Paper:** I will ask the following questions as I grade the paper:

Content: Are the examples insightful and specific? Do they demonstrate mastery of material?  
Is it clearly the result of group collaboration?

Organization: Does the essay flow logically? Are transitions clear?

Formatting: Is the essay typo free? Is it well-written? Does it follow APA guidelines?

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**Option Two:** Attend at least two religious services from the list below and then describe differences in communication and 1-2 key similarities. The focus of the paper should be on differences. Look for differences in any of the following: religious leaders, congregation members, service style, architecture and printed materials such as bulletins. You should offer at least 5 SPECIFIC connections between the textbook concepts (particularly chapter 4) and specific examples from the list above. Be sure to be respectful of the services you attend! Do not make it obvious that you are engaged in a class project, do not be disruptive in your note taking. You can certainly explain why you are attending before and after the service but do so in a way that shows yourselves and UNCW in a good light. Be sure to use the correct vocabulary for each religious service you attend. Do not, for instance, refer to a rabbi as a priest, etc. If something in the architecture seems worthy of analysis, find out the name of feature before you leave.

Possible Services: 1) Predominantly white main stream protestant church (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.), 2) Predominantly African-American church, 3) Jewish Synagogue, 4) Catholic church, 5) Quaker service, 6) a service involving a non-Western religion such as Buddhism.

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Is it clearly the result of group collaboration?  
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**Option Three:** This option has two parts. First, work with your group to develop a classification schema (a set of categories) for defining people. You may develop a schema for just men, just women, just college students or all people. However, once you start, you may not use race, class, sex or sexual orientation to further classify individuals. See chapter two for some insights to guide you. Part one of the paper should efficiently describe your schema and perhaps use a table to do so. You will also want to offer a paragraph of rationale or reasoning that informs your schema—why would it be accurate, useful, etc. The schema should have at least three but no more than six categories to it. Part two is to then ask at least two members of each category within your schema to define the following terms in their own words by asking “What does the following term mean to you?” Here are the terms: 1) Feminism, 2) Affirmative Action, 3) Alcoholic, 4) Conflict, 5) Government. See chapter five (among others) to help you with nature of meaning. The second section of the paper should focus on describing and interpreting the most interesting results. The likely sections of this paper after the introduction are: Schema, Results of Interviews and Interpretation of Results. Be sure to make SPECIFIC connections with textbook in the final section of the paper.

**How I Will Grade The Paper:** I will ask the following questions as I grade the paper:

**Content:** Is the schema insightful and specific? Is the interpretation of results insightful and does it make specific connections with the course material? Is it clearly the result of group collaboration?

**Organization:** Does the essay flow logically? Are transitions clear?

**Formatting:** Is the essay typo free? Is it well-written? Does it follow APA guidelines?