Introduction to Communication

The Fundamentals

What is communication?

• The study of the processes involved in the sending and receiving of messages (DeVito, 2005).
• The process of acting on information (Beebe & Beebe, 2005).
• The process of creating or sharing meaning in informal conversation, group interaction, or public speaking (Verderber & Verderber, 2005).

Components of Communication

• Source: origin of the message (also called sender)
• Receiver: person who receives the message and understands it
• Encoding: process of producing the message
• Decoding: process of understanding the message

More Components

• Message: stimuli sent to the receiver (can be sent in variety of ways)
• Channel: the medium through which the message is passed
• Context: environment in which communication takes place
Even more Components

• Feedback: messages sent in response to other messages
• Feedforward: information given before sending the actual message
• Communication competence: our ability to communicate effectively at an interpersonal level

The last of the Components

Interference with the message
- 4 types of interference:
  • Physical—external to both the speaker and the listener
  • Physiological—barriers within the speaker or listener
  • Psychological—mental interference
  • Cultural—assigning different meanings

Communication Givens

• Communication is inevitable (you cannot not communicate)
• Communication is irreversible (you cannot uncommunicate)

Communication Forms

• Intrapersonal
Communication with ourselves

• Interpersonal
Communication with others
Communication Givens
Communication as a process:
Never ending—no beginning
no ending

Communication as system:
The whole is greater than
any of its parts

Communication for us
- Communications
- Communication