

Look Who's Talking Community Center Project

Cooperative Learning Assignment

Academic Objective: Identify effective communication skills to build healthy relationships pertaining to:

- a. Message sending and receiving skills;
- b. Verbal and non-verbal communication;
- c. Technology in relationships
- d. Communication across cultures.

Cooperative: You are a staff member at the community recreation center. The director of the center has approached your supervisor with his concerns about the staff's lack of knowledge of the people ("guests") who use the center. The guests represent several ethnic/culture groups, and the director wants to make sure all the staff is comfortable and knowledgeable so that healthy relationships are developed and all guests feel welcome.

In order to accomplish this, the director has given you the task of researching a particular group's communication patterns across cultures. This includes verbal and non-verbal communication (e.g., gestures, eye contact, dress/apparel), message sending and receiving skills, and the/any effect of technology in relationships.

Each cooperative group of two will be assigned an ethnic or cultural group to explore (e.g. Mexican-American, Puerto Rican, Asian-Indian American, African American, Jewish-American, Amish, Japanese-American, Somali, Arab Americans, Arab Americans who are Muslim, etc). The cooperative challenge involves researching the lifestyles and communication patterns of the assigned ethnic group, as well as, informing others about the information gathered.

Task:

1. Research your assigned ethnic or cultural group's lifestyles and communication patterns across cultures. This includes verbal and non-verbal communication (gestures, eye contact, dress/apparel), message sending and receiving skills, the effect of technology in relationships.
 2. Interview an individual from a particular culture via some form of technology (email, IM, Text messaging, webcam,) as well as in person.
 3. Learn common phrases used in the culture's lifestyles and communication patterns.
 4. Create a visual aide that accurately represents the chosen ethnic/cultural group.
- Information will be presented to the class in an organized format that would be used in a community center manual (e.g. Power point, video, pod cast or portfolio).

Expected group skill used and processed: Each person in the group will use behaviors to stay on task and to encourage each other to make progress every day.

Expected criteria for success: Each group will present information to the class regarding research findings, meeting the criteria of the Community Center Manual Rubric.

Individual Accountability: Daily there will be a random selection of students chosen to report what they have learned about their ethnic/cultural group, what reliable sources of information they are using and documenting, and how they are organizing it in a manual for the community recreation center