

Final Paper
Due 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 2021 on Blackboard
COMM 101
Prof. Bui

SUMMARY OF INSTRUCTIONS

- An 8-10 page original analysis paper on a real-life communication event during the Spring 2021 semester (Jan. 2021-May 2021). Model papers on Blackboard.
- Must apply twelve (12) communication concepts or terms from the textbook.
- Must integrate three (3) research examples from the book.
- Must be in paper format (see p. 16 of syllabus).
- Must include a Works Cited page.
- In-text references and cited works must be in APA style.
- Upload to Blackboard link in Weekly Units >Finals Week by deadline.

PAPER DETAILS

Objective

In this 8-10 page assignment, you must engage one **communication event** of your choice on a critical analytical level by applying communication concepts to interpreting the event. This paper must be original content (i.e., of your own creation).

An **event** is a “in real life” communication episode that involves significant communication activity to exchange information, develop meanings, and bring relationships into being.

These events can include (but are not limited to) a public speech, a planned meeting, an extended interaction between people, a public event, a conflict situation, a compliance-gaining situation, symbolic event. The event must take place in real life. It may be *in-person* (you are present at the event) or *mediated* (watched on television or online) and must have taken place **during the Spring 2021 semester** (January 2021-May 2021).

Some communication event ideas for you:

- The MTV/CMT/VH1 Music Awards (including pre/post-shows, commentaries, graphics, etc.)
- A wedding
- Presidential address, like 9/11 commemoration
- Presidential acceptance/concession speech
- Interview (job, celebrity, politician, etc.)
- Sports game (including commentary, interviews, graphics, halftime show, etc.)
- A conference panel
- A club meeting (student, sports, etc.)
- A social event (party, fundraiser, awards ceremony, networking event, etc.)
- A Zoom/FaceTime birthday party

NOTE: It is recommended that you choose an event that is lengthy enough for you to apply at least 12 communication concepts.

EXAMPLE PAPERS: Papers from previous semesters that received an “A” grade on this assignment are posted on Blackboard. You may use these papers as models for your paper.

The purpose of this paper is to apply the multiple communication concepts and research we covered during the course of the semester to the communication event. In other words, what you are doing is putting together theory (course concepts and research) and practice (everyday communication). This Final Paper should demonstrate your ability to apply what you learned this semester to communication behavior in real life.

Requirements

Specifically, you are to choose at least **twelve (12) concepts or theories** from any term that is bolded or in the Key Terms list at the end of each chapter AND at least **three (3) examples of research** from the textbook or lectures in order to apply a scholarly, informed analysis of the event (research must include names of researcher[s]).

The **three examples of research criteria** refer to attributing scholarly ideas to the researchers' names. If you are unsure if your chosen concept or research is admissible, feel free to email Prof. Bui or your TA for confirmation. The purpose of citing three research is to familiarize you with attributing scholarly ideas with the researcher(s) who studied or proposed them.

An example of citing one research is like this:

This event also shows how the leader of the group engaged in **altercasting**. The textbook cites how Tracy (as cited in Duck and McMahan, 2020, p. 34) defines altercasting as ...

Your paper should be a minimum of 8 full pages in length and should not exceed 10 pages in total (not including Works Cited). The structure of the paper should follow this format (HOWEVER, DO NOT USE THESE HEADERS, EXCEPT *WORKS CITED*, IN YOUR PAPER):

INTRODUCTION: (1/2-1 page) Preview your paper in this section and provide a thesis (a statement of what you will do in paper and why). Be sure to identify the event, date, and how you were involved or viewed it. Summarize the event in a paragraph.

BODY: (6-8 pages) Explain and define in your own words the 12 concepts and 3 research examples you chose (and cite page numbers), why you think they are relevant for analysis and to the event, and apply them to the event in this section. Please **bold**, *italicize*, OR underline your chosen concepts and research so they may be accurately counted. The cited three research examples must include the name of the researcher(s) and an explanation of the research (e.g., "Erving Goffman's research on identity as a performance (p. 64) offers us a way to...").

CONCLUSION: (1/2-1 page) Summarize and bring closure to the paper. How does your analysis help us understand a communication topic or area? (E.g., "By applying communication models of relationships to Harry, Meghan, William, and Kate, I demonstrated how we can understand the deterioration of their family relationship. This analysis contributes to research in personal communication and relationships by providing a case study that shows how disclosure, conflict, and storytelling helped transact relationships.")

WORKS CITED:

- Cite the textbook on your Works Cited page since this is your primary citation source. When citing research names from the textbook *in your text*, cite the textbook like one of these:
 - (Duck and McMahan, 2018)
 - (Duck and McMahan, 2018, p. 25)
 - Goffman's study (as cited in Duck and McMahan, 2020, p. 64)...

- Cite Prof. Bui's lecture if you are using research mentioned in only lecture (i.e., was not in textbook). Lectures should be cited like: [Bui, Diem-My, UIC COMM 101 lecture, Week 10, Blackboard](#).
- You are not expected to have other citations unless you are referencing a mediated event (e.g., an interview on YouTube, a speech on CNN, etc.).
- Use APA formatting style (see Blackboard for example style sheet) for the textbook. APA format is the predominant formatting style for the communication discipline.

Grading Criteria (Full Rubric is on Blackboard)

Thesis/Introduction: Did you preview the paper, cite the event properly, and give a short summary of event? Is the central idea/thesis easily identifiable and worth developing? A **thesis** is a central idea or argument on which you construct your paper. An example of a good thesis statement for this type paper:

An analysis of the event, _____, reveals that the verbal and nonverbal messages in the dialogue and actions offer insight into various conflicts in gender communication and thought.

Concept Application: Uses at least 12 concepts from Key Terms and 3 research examples. Have you comprehensively explained each concept/research and cited properly?

Application of each concept is reasonable, well-thought out, creative and insightful.

Critical Thinking: Moves beyond regurgitation of readings by providing insightful ideas and connections to contemporary examples. Demonstrates a clear understanding of the ideas, issues, and arguments of theories and concepts. Must be your own original work.

Structure and Style: Is your paper intelligible, and engaging of the audience's attention because it is well-organized, while the writing is lively and clear? Does the body connect well to the thesis? Are there solid topic sentences? Is it written in an appropriate college-level tone (free of slang, clichés, and uninformed judgments)?

Use of Evidence or Examples: Argument used to buttress every point with at least one example from event or textbook. Examples support mini-thesis and fit within paragraph. Excellent integration of textbook and event into sentences. Use only minimal number of quotations. If using quotations, be sure to paraphrase, too. Includes APA style works cited.

Logic and Argumentation: All ideas flow logically. Argument is identifiable, reasonable and sound. Author makes novel connections to material, which illuminates the thesis. Appropriate academic level tone.

Mechanics: Is the paper typed (double-spaced, 12-point font, w/ 1" margins)? Have you proofread until the spelling, punctuation, grammar, and syntax are flawless?

UIC Writing Center

I encourage you to take advantage of the [Writing Center](#) on campus for any stage of your writing draft. You can come in with no writing at all to take the first steps or with a full draft for finalizing. Meeting with a Writing Center tutor can help with writer's block, help save time by working through how to revise or plan the paper, and assist with constructive feedback. Visit <https://writingcenter.uic.edu/> for online appointments.

Submission Instructions

- Due by 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 2021, on Blackboard under the appropriate SafeAssign* link. Any submissions after due time will be considered late. Any document submissions that are corrupt will be considered late (check your document by downloading your file).
- Take a screenshot of your successful submission for your records!
- Submit as a "File to Attach" in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.

* SafeAssign is a global plagiarism system. It will check papers for plagiarism. Papers with more than 20% matching with other texts may be considered plagiarized.