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Critical Thinking Discussion

The terms vague, ambiguity, and generality are common in politics. Vague is where words are not exact, making it hard to understand, while ambiguity is where the message delivered has more than one interpretation. In this case, the statement would be understood differently, and no similarity in the meanings is noted. On the other hand, generality is indefinite and unspecific, as they give collective information other than direct and valid sentiments.

The three aspects are used by politicians to achieve desired outcomes. The primary purpose of communication is conveying messages whereby the sender has the responsibility to be clear, so the receiver understands the message as intended. It has not been the case in politics as leaders avoid being blamed. When one uses vague and ambiguous information, listeners are left confused about what the person meant. As a result, people develop varying interpretations, which alters understanding, so the politicians are not criticized. The elements are also applied in politics to yield specific outcomes as they do not comprehend the information. One can only communicate effectively if they understand the message because they learn the essential aspects. Most leaders do not understand information making them convey vague, ambiguous, and general information to convince the people they have communicated with, but no reliable information is given in reality. For example, the government could enact an individual policy, whereby leaders can explain to the citizens. If they do not know the idea and implications, they will provide general information which is unhelpful.

Understanding these concepts and their implications in the future are helpful in my future career. I know that they affect the communication process and will, therefore, avoid them. For example, I will determine what needs to be included in conveying information, use pronouns well, ensure consistency, and avoid abbreviations. Apart from that, I will use short sentences but

lay them out clearly, to make the information readable and understandable. Before sending messages, I will proofread to identify clarity, fluency, and readability to prevent communication barriers.

An example of a current event where the elements are noted is in the US's politics. President Trump said that "maybe there is" (McCammon, 2016) while talking about the second amendment. It attracted varying responses, after which Trump claimed that he was referring to the political power on gun rights. However, the first Republic nominee provided another statement with a different interpretation. In the end, differences were noted between the two making the citizens confused.

Reference

McCammon, S. (10th August 2016). Donald Trump's Controversial Speech Often Walks the Line. <https://www.npr.org/2016/08/10/489476187/trump-s-second-amendment-comment-fit-a-pattern-of-ambiguous-speech>

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