

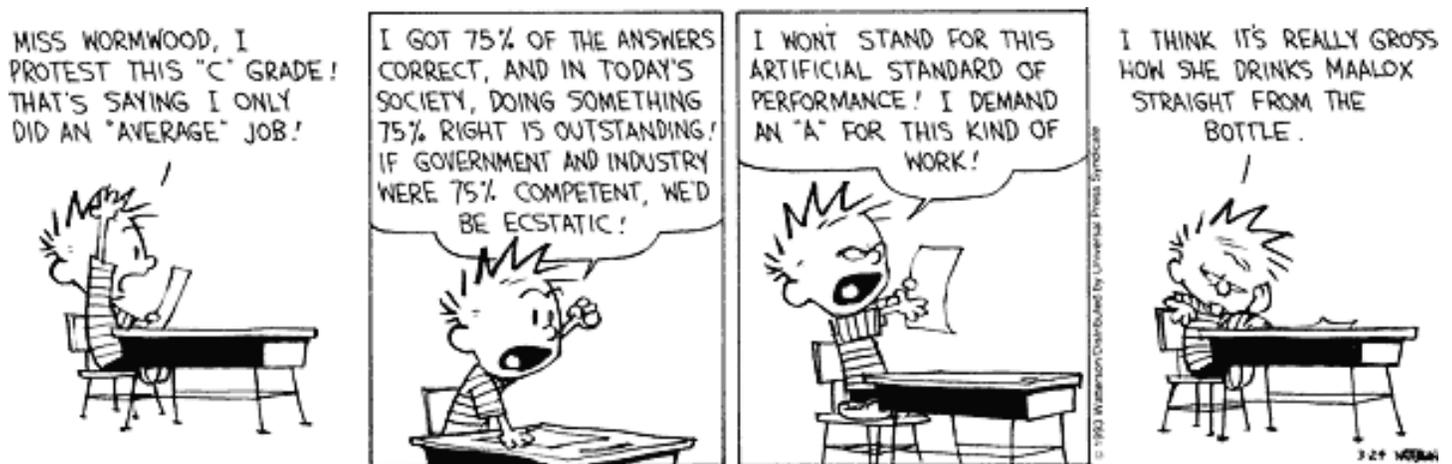
Triadic Encounter for Fall 2018

The Objective of the Dyadic Encounter is to:

- 1) give you a chance to experience & reflect on some of the basic principles of interpersonal communication,
- 2) give you a chance to better get to know other people in the class, and
- 3) give you a change of pace from the regular class for a change

Directions: **Write your partner's name and phone # down as soon as you sit down with them.** You will be assigned to a group and you will meet with that group as many times as needed to go through all of the Triadic Encounter Sessions in this handout. Each section is easy (and cheesy). There *may be* a short period of time after class to work on this assignment **but plan on working with your partners outside of class as well if you want to do well.**

Isn't interdependence loads of fun?



Session #1:

Meet. Introduce yourselves. Feel awkward. Small-talk. Grope for commonalities (vital statistics: year, major, mutual friends/enemies, similar interests/gripes, whatever). & As soon as you're ready, get started with the board game I made. Is it cheesy? Sure. Don't be afraid to have fun with it. You should both answer each question unless you find a question painful or offensive somehow.

As soon as you finish begin "Would You Rather..." for each question, you each pick the option you would rather have, and explain why. Try to at least start this sheet before calling it a day. Before you leave make sure you have your partner's name and phone # as well as an agreed-upon time and place for your second meeting.

You may find it helpful to jot some notes to yourself about what happened during the session that relates to any specific questions on the "Dyadic Encounter Paper Instructions," while it's fresh in your mind.

Session #2:

Meet at the scheduled time. Reacquaint yourselves. Feel slightly less awkward (hopefully). Small-talk. As soon as you feel up to it, pick up wherever you left off on the "Would You Rather..." questions and finish them.

You are now ready to begin "What Would You Do If?" questions. You should all answer each of the questions unless you think a question seems too private or personal in which case you can "pass" on it. Once you finish the What Would You Do If? questions, you are done for today,

Before you leave make sure you have an agreed-upon time and place for your third meeting. Again, feel free to jot yourself notes immediately after the session before your brain cramps up.

Session #3:

Meet at the scheduled time. Reacquaint yourselves. Feel a bit more comfortable than last time. Small-talk. As soon as you feel up to it, begin the "Dyadic Encounter Discussion Questions. Same rules apply to this session as Session #2.

Session #4:

Meet at the scheduled time. Hopefully you're feeling fairly comfortable with your partner by now. That would be a good thing, because your mission for session #4 is to go as a team and break a nonverbal or social rule (Oh joy!). **Before you break the rule however, I would like your group to discuss how you think others will react to your rule-breaking. You may find the Units on "Nonverbal Communication" in the text helpful for ideas. PLEASE DO NOT DO ANYTHING ILLEGAL. IMMORAL, OR HARMFUL TO YOURSELVES OR OTHERS!**

In the past, students have done all kinds of things...invading people's space, using wacky amounts of eye contact, dressing bizarrely. etc.... of course. I know you'll be much more creative than they were, because you're my best students yet. Once each of you has had the thrilling opportunity to break a nonverbal rule, you have completed the "meetings" part of the Dyadic Encounter. You may now hug your partner, choke back a tear, share the moment, and immediately begin reminiscing about all the great times you had together.



Triadic Encounter Paper Assignment

Once you've completed and TYPED OUT your responses to the Written Questions, you may consider yourself a survivor of your first official Dyadic Encounter. Congratulations!

1. What are your partners' names (or your partner if only one)? Please use their names throughout your responses to ease in my clarification.
2. What impressions did you have of your partners before you started the first Triadic assignment? Why did you have these perceptions and what influenced your reasoning?
3. Now that you have finished the assignments, which of your first impressions seemed especially accurate and what seemed to change. Discuss how the communication between your group evolved as you went from assignment to assignment. Offer examples of turning points in your group, and how these instances, revelations (or lack of) changed the nature of communication, whether good or bad.
4. In chapter one of the text and IN THE POWERPOINT I HAVE POSTED ONLINE, I list a large number of communication principles (or axioms) that I said are given assumptions regarding the nature of interpersonal communication. First, **explain in your OWN words three of these communication principles** and second: **give specific examples which illustrate how your group followed or violated them.**
5. You were asked to break a nonverbal rule with your partners, but first your group was asked discuss how you thought people would behave or interact with you when you broke the rule. For this question, I would like you to tell me what rule your group decided to break and why you chose that rule, the set up (who did what within the group and how was the rule-breaking accomplished), what your group thought would happen when you broke the rule, and finally what really did happen. Did their reactions match your expectations? Expand on your answers.
6. From what you can tell as a result of your interaction with your group, which quadrant of the Johari Window (open, blind, secret, unknown) do you think is the largest for each of the others (in their normal ongoing relations), based on what you learned from them. Give examples of how you determined your answer. Additionally, answer which quadrant do you think your partner would say was the biggest for you and why.
7. Explain the dialectic tensions of "judgment and acceptance," and "openness and closedness" in your own words. How do the two relate to one-another? Be specific and use examples to show understanding.
8. Refer to question 7: How did these tensions (and others) guide what information you shared with your partner. What tactics (from the text) did you use to manage the dialectics and did they change over time?
9. Explain each of the four Grice Maxims (see chapter 4) and how they might impact communication between people. Use examples from your interactions to illustrate how you and your partner (or partners) followed them or how they were violated.

Would you rather...

1. ...be rich or famous?
2. ...be gossiped about or lied to?
3. ...get caught naked by a friend or by a stranger?
4. ...steal from an old lady or laugh out loud at a funeral?
5. ...be told you have a booger hanging from your nose or told you have bad breath?
6. ...have the power to fly or the power to disappear?
7. ...step in dog poop barefoot or have a bird dropping hit you on the head?
8. ...give up your favorite food forever or television for two years?
9. ...have an affair or help rob a bank?
10. ...be healthy and homeless or unhealthy and rich?
11. ...fail in business and end up bankrupt or fail in marriage and end up divorced?
12. ...have no values or no friends?
13. ...be bitten by a shark or by a pit bull dog?
14. ...pee in your pants in private or pass gas in a crowded room?
15. ...be known for your intelligence or for your personality?
16. ...be lost in a desert or in a jungle?
17. ...jam your finger in a basketball game or stub your toe on a brick?
18. ...drop a fifteen-pound bowling ball on your foot or get your finger slammed in a car door?
19. ...faint during your wedding ceremony and recover an hour later or throw up during your ceremony and continue right away?
20. ...look stupid or be stupid?



What Would You Do If...

could be invisible?

you were about to throw up sitting next to your first date on a fast amusement park ride?

you could have superhero powers-which would you choose?

you could speak to the president for 15 minutes?

you could travel back in time?

you saw a U.F.O.?

you had to give up one of your senses?

you could keep only one of your senses?

you could fly?

you found one of your parents in an affair?

you could change the shape of your body instantly?

you didn't need to sleep?

there were no laws?

you could control the weather?

you could be part of any TV family?

you could talk to your family about anything?

you could never feel physical pain?

you didn't have to work for a living?

you had a love potion that would cause whoever drank it to fall in love with you?

someone offered you \$1,000,000 for one of your eyes?

you could spend 24 hours with anyone in the world?

you could relive (unchanged) one day of your life?

you could redo one day of your life?

you could spend a year studying in any country of the world?

you could be any cartoon character?

a party you were attending went skinny-dipping?

you had a wrist watch that would beep every time someone (including you) told a lie?

your home was on fire and you could save only 3 personal items?

could wipe out any one kind of music?

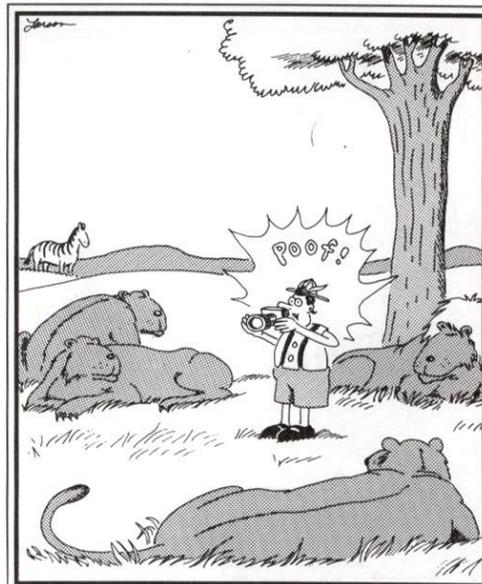
could exchange bodies with anyone for a day?

you could increase a person's health through your touch, but only if you would decrease your own in the process?

your touch could calm others no matter how upset they were?

you could read people's minds?

others could read your mind?



While vacationing in Africa, Pinocchio has his longtime wish to be a real boy suddenly and unexpectedly granted.

Dyadic Encounter Discussion Questions

1. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
2. If you received \$5000 as a gift, how would you spend it?
3. Of all the material possessions you have, what gives you the most pleasure?
4. Share a time in your life when you were embarrassed.
5. What do you think makes a house a home?
6. What do you think your friends say about you when you're not around?
7. Upon what do you find yourself depending to find your security in life?
8. What is something that saddens you?
9. Share a wonderfully memorable moment in your life.
10. In a nutshell, what do you think life is all about?
11. What goals, if any, are you pursuing right now in your life?
12. Of what are you most afraid?
13. What do you feel is your purpose in life?
14. How would you describe peace?
15. What is the most childlike quality you've retained?
16. What do you like most about yourself?
17. What is one thing you wish you could change about yourself?
18. What do you believe in?
19. Share a big accomplishment in your life.
20. What advice would you give a high school kid thinking about college? 21
What would you like to invent to make life better?
22. Share a big letdown in your life.
23. If you wrote a book today, what would the title be?
24. What is the most wonderful gift you ever received from someone?
25. Share a personal spiritual experience.
26. What is something that really bugs you?
27. Besides your parents, who have been the most influential people in your life?
28. Describe the best teacher you ever had.
29. How would you describe joy?
30. What do you think makes a happy marriage?
31. What is something that makes you angry?
32. Share a time when your feelings were hurt.
33. What do you like to do in your spare time?
34. Name 2 famous people in history you would like to have met.
35. What brings you the most fulfillment in life?
36. What four things are the most important in your life?
37. If you could have lived anytime in history, when would it have been?
38. Describe the perfect husband/wife.
39. If you could make one contribution to the world, what would it be?
40. Thinking back, what can you identify as a turning point in your life?
41. What really excites you?
42. What do you think you would be remembered for if you died this week?
43. What other question would you like to ask your partner?