Lecture Overheads

Components of Interpersonal Communication:

Listening and Giving Feedback

Communication for Managers 15.279

Fall 2012

How can you listen well?

- Behavior #1: Accuracy
 - Discriminate facts from opinions
 - Analyze facts to understand message
- Behavior #2: **Support**
 - Give attention to the other person
 - Show involvement verbally and nonverbally
 - Help other person feel comfortable

Nonverbal Communication Variables

- Facial expressions, gestures, posture (kinesics)
- Perceptions and use of space (proxemics)
- Paralanguage (sounds by not words)
- Use of silence
- Eye contact (oculesics)

Giving feedback is tricky

- Giver and receiver must have
 - consensus on the receiver's goals
 - constructive motives
- Be concrete and specific
- Discuss something the person can act on
- Don't withhold negative feedback if relevant
- Timing is important

Feedback, cont.

- The giver should add his/her own observations and feelings
 - Be descriptive, not judgmental
 - Restrict feedback to things you know for certain
 - "I feel angry" vs. "That was inappropriate"

Develop your capacity to Reflect in Action

- Hit the "pause button"
 - How does the interaction make you feel?
 - How and why do you interpret as you do?
- Suspend your assumptions
- Consider how your actions are coloring the situation
- Use self-observation to bring about self control

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15.279 Management Communication for Undergraduates Fall 2012

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