Building Effective Communication Skills: A Workshop for International Graduate Students

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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Welcome From The Graduate School

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Our Co-Sponsors

> Core Programs in the Graduate School
> GPSS
  – Graduate and Professional Student Senate
> FIUTS
  – Foundation for International Understanding Through Students
Who are we?

> Ziyan Bai
  - From Beijing, China
  - Came to UW in 2011
  - Love food and traveling
  - Afraid of all kinds of insects

> Monica Cortés Viharo
  - From Oakland, Ca
  - Came to UW in 2014
  - Actor, Public Speaking Coach, PhD Student
  - Wife and Cat Mommy
Goals of the Workshop

- Learn about cultural differences and communication styles
- Discuss communication skills in and out of the classroom
- Practice tips for effective communication and networking skills
- Develop strategies for real world communication situations in academic, professional and social setting
- Connect with your peers to build community
What’s one strength you possess with regard to communication?

What’s one challenge you face in communication?

What is the difference in communication styles between your home country and here?
What is Communication?

Poll Everywhere

> Instruction
  – PollEv.com/ziyanbai273
  – OR text ZIYANBAI273 to 22333
What is communication? What word or idea does it bring to mind?

Respond at PollEv.com/ziyanbai273

Text ZIYANBAI273 to 22333 once to join, then text your message

Answers to this poll are anonymous
Non Verbal Communication
Communication Scenarios
Scenario I

> Join a conversation at a professional conference
Group Discussion

> What do you think worked well in that scenario?

> What would you do differently?
Scenario II

> At a party where people are talking about topics you are not so familiar with, e.g. football, movies
Group Discussion

> What do you think worked well in that scenario?

> What would you do differently?
Scenario III

> At a research group meeting with advisor and peers
Group Discussion

> What do you think worked well in that scenario?

> What would you do differently?
At least, remember these…

- Be open-minded;
- Critical Thinking;
- Group/Team Work;
- Ask questions when in doubt;
- Don’t take it personal;
- Cordially professional relationship: Let things go
American Values in Communication

This is never a golden standard since we are all human.

> Casual Conversation (a.k.a. small talk): weather, weekend, holiday, vacation, sports
  – People take turns frequently
  – Not much personal topic involved; unless close friends
  – No controversial topics (i.e. sex, religion, politics)

> Body language
  – Not much touching involved; moderate or event quiet conversations preferred;

> Story narratives – With “facts”
Modes of Communication

There can be more than this list can encompass…

> Email;
> Phone;
> One-on-one (work);
> Group (social);
> Meeting (work);
> Presentation (1 to many – small audience);
> Public Speaking (1 to big audience);
> Teaching (lecture, lab, office hour, quiz section);
Resources

- FIUTS Conversation Group;
- Public Speaking Course;
- Speaking Center;
- Core Programs: Winter & Spring Quarter Workshops
- Career & Internship Center: Networking events/workshops
- Community Building: RSOs; GPSS; Meet-ups;
- Counselling Center & Ombud – Conflict Management;
- Legal Services – Landlord;
- Others? Please share with the group!
International Grad Student Webpage

> grad.uw.edu/international_graduate_students

> Get Involved!
– International Grad Student Advisory Board
– Fill in the Catalyst Application to be part of this group
– https://catalyst.uw.edu/webq/survey/baiziyan/341682
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