

Area: Interpersonal Relationships

Problem: Communication Styles and Effects on Relationships

Standards

SD FCS Standard(s)

FCS 4.3.1

Examine communication styles and their effects on relationships.

SD Mathematics Standard(s)

Math 9-12.S.1.3

Represent a set of data in a variety of graphical forms and draw conclusions.

Math 9-12.S.1.1

Draw conclusions from a set of data.

Math 9-12.S.1.1.A

Analyze and evaluate the design of surveys and experiments.

What will you do?

Students will work in groups of three. They will write a survey with 15 questions and will be open ended. Students will "categorize" the answers based on the communication styles/patterns that the students have studied. The questions should be written as situations and the person will respond telling how they have or would react in this situation. Discuss with students how to ask/write an unbiased question. For example, the response "cry" is biased because people may not want to admit to crying because it may be looked at as weak or negative. (Sample Question: You are on a date. Your boy/girlfriend keeps bringing up their former boy/girlfriend and how much fun they were. You ...) If the person responds "cry" or "give the silent treatment", these are examples of communication patterns. Choose what age/grade level, etc. of students you want to survey. Determine how to truly get a random sample. Generate a random list and then survey those students. Have students complete the surveys. Compile the results. Use the following formula to put the responses in graphical form for each question: $\text{number of people who chose the designated response} \div \text{the number of people who completed the survey} = \text{percent}$. Using the computer, poster board, etc. prepare a bar graph for each question, with the results. Students will then draw conclusions, using the Communication Patterns Conclusions sheet.

What will you need?

Calculator

Poster board and markers OR computer and printer

Students to survey

How will you be evaluated?

Teacher-generated checklist:

_____ Wrote survey of 15 questions (unbiased questions and used random selection for survey)

_____ Survey given to designated number of students

_____ Results tallied

_____ Results put in graphical form (one for each questions) using formula for percentages

_____ Wrote three conclusions based on knowledge of communication styles/patterns and effects

Supplemental Materials

This web site will provide information on how to write a survey.

http://www.ehow.com/how_16596_write-survey-questionnaire.html

Communication Patterns Conclusion sheet

Resources

Connections: Relationships and Marriage, The Dibble Fund for Marital Enhancement, Berkeley, California, 1996.