

## **Magical Communication**

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There are so many axioms that are important to communication that it is difficult to put a cap on just a few. From metacommunication to communication rituals and a myriad of possibilities in between one can see just why the area of communication studies, especially that of interpersonal communication, is a study all its own. Though my illustration of communication will broaden to several areas or pathways that one can take during the process of communication between sender and receiver, the most important of these axioms to me are perception, metacommunication, and relationships.

Relationships are the foundation of all communication in my opinion. It doesn't matter if it is a casual relationship or one of intimacy all communication happens when one has a relationship of some level with another human being. It is why as a teacher I believe that good communication occurs in the classroom when a teacher has formed a relationship with his or her students. It's difficult to communicate empathy or the like in a classroom if a student believes that you don't truly have his or her best interest at heart. In a sense, communication is the relationship.

Part of the communication relationship is metacommunication. I know as a teacher I feel that it is vital to my relationship with my students to understand what they are saying and make sure I understand what they are saying. If I were to start a lesson, for example, without providing building blocks to their pre-existing knowledge then I'm not engaging in metacommunication and doing a disservice to my students. By giving them knowledge in building blocks that builds upon their prior knowledge I am engaging in metacommunication with my students to make sure they understand what it is I am trying to communicate.

Perception is an important component in communication and though I realize it falls upon both parties I really think it is more noticeable in the receiver. In my experience with perception it seems that no matter how hard we try as the sender to convey a clear message it is the receiver who ultimately gives meaning to our message. In good communication the sender and receiver would exchange roles back and forth until the meaning was truly understood, but far too often in communication somewhere this fails through the perception of the receiver. I believe that a lot of perceptions are based upon preconceived notions or personal biases. When we here something that goes against our own personal morals, beliefs, and the like we as the receiver can misinterpret the sender's message. When we are aware for the potential of this occurring we then become active in our communication and can then communicate in a positive manner by asking questions of the sender to seek clarification of the message.

Again, there are many parts of communication that truly are equal with the three that I've covered, and some that are intertwined but if we start with these as our building blocks of communication we can be come conscious communicators. Through these building blocks we can develop our communication skills to be productive in all areas of our life.

