

## Inquiry Question

To what extent does your family have healthy communication?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### Background

Successful healthy families periodically take inventory of their strengths and weaknesses and take steps to improve their home and family environment. Some families function extremely well with instrumental communication, yet have great difficulty with affective communication. Healthy families are able to communicate well in both areas. You learned about four communication styles in the lessons on family communication. Which ones do your family members use? Marital and family researchers have discovered that unhappy family relationships are often the result of negative communication patterns (e.g., criticism, contempt, defensiveness). Communication is a key to successful family functioning. Researchers agree that clear, open, and frequent communication is a basic characteristic of a strong, healthy family. Families that communicate in healthy ways are more capable of problem-solving and tend to be more satisfied with their relationships.

### Instructions

1. **Part 1:** You will be answering the question “To what extent does your family have a healthy home environment? Remember that a “to what extent” argument is asking you to make a judgement about “how much” – not at all, a little, somewhat, significantly, a

lot? Use examples to back up your argument and refer to the information you learned in this unit when you are analyzing your family’s communication.

2. **Part 2:** After you have analyzed your family’s communication, make suggestions about how communication could be improved in your family. Here are some suggested Google searches to get you started:

- <http://www.froddo.com/8-steps-to-better-family-communication>
- <http://www.themomiverse.com/motherhood-and-family/10-positive-family-communication-rules-for-your-home/>

You can also come up with your own suggestions that fit your family; each family is unique so some of the suggestions in the above articles may not fit.

3. How you structure the project is up to you. Consider presenting your thinking as a video, essay, graphic organizers, mind map, pamphlet or brochure, report, Google slides, presentation to your classmates or your parents, or another format or combination of formats you think would work well. You can write down your argument, and/or record yourself talking. Talk to your teacher if you have any questions or are having trouble deciding on a format.
4. Remember that unit projects make up the bulk of your assessment and should be the place you reveal your best work based on the knowledge and insights you have learned in this unit. **These are big projects, not little assignments, and should show a depth of understanding and knowledge.**
5. Remember to include a “Works Cited” section in MLA style. Instructions are found on the WCLN website under the “Learning Tools” tab or at <https://wcln.ca/mod/page/view.php?id=29473>.

Criteria	Applying Up to C	Developing C+ to B	Proficient B+ to A	Extending A+
<b>Quality of Ideas</b>	Exhibits minimal ability to engage in analysis/criticism  Displays some variety and precision  Has limited insight into the issues  Works with ongoing support	Exhibits adequate ability to engage in some analysis/criticism  Displays adequate variety and precision  Shows adequate insight into the issues  Works with some support	Exhibits very good ability to engage in analysis/criticism  Displays variety, precision &/or originality of thought  Avoids irrelevance  Shows proficient insight into the issues  Works with increasing independence	Exhibits excellent, independent analysis/criticism  Displays consistent variety, precision &/or originality  Consistently relevant  Shows deep insight into the issues  Works independently

<b>Knowledge and Understanding of Content</b>	<p>Limited knowledge and understanding of the content</p> <p>Demonstrates a partial understanding</p> <p>A very limited coverage of the essential information</p> <p>Works with ongoing support</p>	<p>Adequate knowledge and understanding of the content</p> <p>Demonstrates a partial understanding</p> <p>A limited or partial coverage of the essential information</p> <p>Works with some support</p>	<p>Proficient knowledge and understanding of the content</p> <p>Demonstrates an accurate understanding</p> <p>A full coverage of the essential information but missing some key pieces of information or analysis</p> <p>Works with increasing independence</p>	<p>Excellent knowledge and understanding of the content</p> <p>Demonstrates with new insights a thorough integrated understanding of the essential information</p> <p>An extensive coverage of the essential information with minimal holes in analysis</p> <p>Works independently</p>
<b>Presentation and Communication of Learning</b>	<p>It is very difficult to understand this project.</p> <p>Grammar, spelling and punctuation errors interfere with understanding.</p> <p>The presentation format is so messy and/or unorganized that it interferes with understanding and/or it does not suit the assignment.</p>	<p>Grammar, spelling and punctuation errors exist but only occasionally interfere with understanding.</p> <p>The format chosen fits well for the project and is set up so that the student's thinking can be followed</p>	<p>Grammar, spelling and punctuation errors are few and do not interfere with understanding.</p> <p>The chosen format shows the student's thinking very well and makes their thinking very easy to follow; it is well organized and neat.</p>	<p>There are no grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.</p> <p>The chosen format shows the student's thinking very well and makes their thinking very easy to follow; it is very well organized, neat and creative.</p>

**Note that most of the assessment is weighted according to how well you present your knowledge and thinking; the presentation and communication of thinking has less weight over all. Communication and presentation is simply a vehicle to show your ideas and knowledge.**