

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNICATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Principles of Communication: Seven Cs

For transmitting effective written or oral messages, Certain principles must be followed.

They are also called the seven Cs of communication.

They are:

- 1.Completeness**
- 2.Conciseness**
- 3.Clarity**
- 4.Correctness**
- 5.Consideration**
- 6.Courtesy**
- 7.Concreteness**

Completeness

Every communication must be complete and adequate. Incomplete messages keep the receiver guessing, create misunderstanding and delay actions. Every person should, therefore, be provided with all the required facts and figures.

For example, when factory supervisor instructs workers to produce, he must specify the exact size, shape, quality and cost of the product. Any assumptions behind the messages should also be clarified. While answering a letter, all the questions raised in the letter must be replied.

Conciseness

In business communication, you should be brief and be able to say whatever you have to say in fewest possible words without sacrificing the other qualities. Conciseness is desired because of the following benefits:

- 1. A concise message saves time and expense for both sender and receiver.**
- 2. Conciseness contributes to emphasis; by eliminating unnecessary words, you let important ideas stand out.**
- 3. When combined with a “you-view”, concise messages are inherently more interesting to recipients as they avoid unnecessary information.**

Clarity

- Clarity means getting your message across so the receiver will understand what you are trying to convey.
- You want that person to interpret your words with the same meaning you have in mind.
- Accomplishing that goal is difficult because, as you know, individual experiences are never identical, and words have different meanings to different persons.
- Here are some specific ways to help make your messages clear:
 1. Choose short, familiar, conversational words.
 2. Construct effective sentences and paragraphs.
 3. Achieve appropriate readability (and listen ability).
 4. Include examples, illustrations, and other visual aids, when desirable.

Correctness

- The term correctness as applied to business messages means right level of language and accuracy of facts, figures and words.
- If the information is not correctly conveyed, the sender will lose credibility.
- Transmission of incorrect information to superiors will vitiate decision making process.
- Transmission of incorrect information to outsiders will spoil the public image of the firm.
- To convey correct messages, grammatical errors should also be avoided.
- You should not transmit any message unless you are absolutely sure of its correctness.

Consideration

- Consideration means that you prepare every message with the recipient in mind and try to put yourself in his or her place.
- Try to visualize your readers (or listeners)—with their desires, problems, circumstances, emotions, and probable reactions to your request.
- Then handle the matter from their point of view
- This thoughtful consideration is also called "you-attitude," empathy, the human touch, and understanding of human nature. (It does not mean, however, that you should overlook the needs of your organization.)

Courtesy

- Courteous messages help to strengthen present business friendships, as well as make new friends.
- Courtesy stems from sincere you-attitude.
- It is not merely politeness with mechanical insertions of "please's" and "thank-you'd."
- To be courteous, considerate communicators should
- follow these suggestions regarding tone of the communications.
- Be sincerely tactful, thoughtful, and appreciative.
- Omit expressions that irritate, hurt, or belittle.
- Grant and apologize good-naturedly.

Concreteness

Communicating concretely means being specific, definite, and vivid rather than vague and general.

The following guidelines should help you compose concrete, convincing messages:

- Use specific facts and figures.
- Put action in your verbs.
- Choose vivid, image-building words.