PASSING THE CULTURAL MESSAGE

World Heritage Communication and Media Training Workshop

Session 2: Communication / Developing Message presentation

Date: Monday, 9 December 2013

Time: 14:45-15:45



OVERVIEW: Communication Planning & Message development

Introduction to Communication Planing

- 1. What is communication?
- 2. Types of communication
- 3. The communication model
- 4. Detracting from your message

Exercise: Message Development

- A. Identifying a project in groups
- B. Determine Target Audience
- C. Develop Primary and Secondary Messages

1. WHAT IS COMMUNICATION?

Communication is how people use messages to generate meanings across various contexts, cultures, channels, and media. It is:

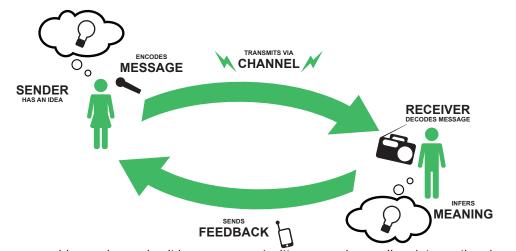
- Transferring information from one place to another.
- Transmitting and understanding an idea or message with a specific purpose.
- Exchanging ideas between sender and receiver, using channel and code.

2. TYPES OF COMMUNICATION

The communication can be:

- Spoken/Verbal: Interpersonal (one to one, one to many, many to one) or broadcast (TV, film video etc.)
- Non-Verbal: (Conveying meaning using gestures, body language, facial expressions etc.)
- Written: Using a set of symbols and rules to convey a message (language, alphabets, grammar)
- Visual: Use of drawings, pictograms, video or animation etc. to convey a message
- Auditory: Use of sound to convey a message, express an idea or a sentiment

3. THE COMMUNICATION MODEL



SENDER: conveys an idea and encodes it in a message (written, sound recording, interpretive dance)

CHANNEL: How the message is transferred (tweet, letter, soundcloud file, video etc.)

RECEIVER: Interprets or decodes the message for meaning

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4. DETRACTING FROM YOUR MESSAGE



NOISE: Anything that can interfere with encoding, transmission, reception and decoding the message, creating misunderstanding.

- PSYCHOLOGICAL: Bias, stereotypes assumptions that the SENDER and/or RECEIVER brings to an exchange.
- **PHYSICAL**: External stimulus that distracts from the message. Background music, message overload from social media channels etc.
- **SEMANTIC:** Caused by the **SENDER** encoding the message in a way the **RECEIVER** does not understand. This could be an issue with language, channel, shared experience/concepts
- **TECHNICAL:** Barriers to transmitting the message such as signal reception/interference; technological disconnect; choice of channel.

MISUNDERSTANDING CAN OCCUR AT ANY STAGE OF THE COMMUNICATION PROCESS.

Avoid this by **KNOWING YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE** and choosing the **BEST CHANNEL** to reach them.

THE RESULT: An effective message that is understood and results in action or a new view on a subject

EXERCISES

TASK A: IDENTIFYING A PROJECT IN GROUPS

In your working group, identify an activity for a communication plan. This could be an event, product, announcement related to the Weimar World Heritage site.

(10 Minutes)

TASK B: DETERMINE TARGET AUDIENCE

For which RECEIVER(S) are you designing your message?

Tip: You can avoid PSYCHOLOGICAL NOISE by researching your audience. Do not make assumptions / Identify your own biases / Rely on empirical evidence.

Profile your audience by:

- Basic demographics: (e.g., gender, age, income level etc.)
- Geography: (e.g., local, regional, national or international audience.)
- Profession/interests: (e.g., students, educators, youth, children, tourists, community leaders etc.)
- Behaviour that you want to influence/modify. (i.e., Get involved in world heritage activities, Visit world heritage sites, Share your story about world cultural heritage via social media etc.)

Think about the following:

- 1. Where do they live?
- 2. What age group do they belong to?
- 3. What are their day-to-day activities?
- 4. How they communicate among themselves and with other people?
- 5. Which kind of activity would they like to do during their free time?
- 6. Why the project should be oriented towards this specific public?

(15 Minutes)

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TASK C: DEVELOP PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MESSAGES

Your MESSAGE is designed to create CHANGE.

It is at the core of your communications plan.

It should **EDUCATE**, create **DISCUSSION**, promote **IDEAS** or advocate **ACTION**.

Your MESSAGE should be CLEAR and should resonate with your TARGET AUDIENCE

Primary and Secondary Messages

Primary message: Your main idea

- A short message or slogan that you want your audience to remember or react to
- Includes the issue that you want to discuss
- Is directed directly at your target audience (Smoking kills, Cultural Heritage Rocks, Women deserve equal airtime on radio)

Secondary Message: reinforces your primary message

- They state why the issue is important.
- They provide information that the audience can retain or act upon.
- They add weight to your core messages by providing examples to reinforce what you are promoting.

(15 Minutes)

