

My First Year Dorm:
A Social Network Analysis of Friends, Enemies/Frenemies, and Everything In-Between

Guidelines for the Paper Assignment (50 points).
Due on November 14th at 3pm in class.

In this paper (single-space, 2 pages, excluding the diagram and the references), please analyze the friendship network in your first year dorm.

*If you did not live in a dorm your first year, please speak to a TA or Prof Westgate. We'll help you select an alternative social network to analyze (e.g., a current or former workplace, a former high school or youth group experience, etc.). You *must* have written or verbal approval from an instructor or TA if you are analyzing an alternative social network.

Who became friends with whom? Who disliked each other? Were there cliques or rivalries? Were some people more popular (or more excluded) than others? Most importantly, *why did people come to behave and feel this way towards each other?* The goal of this paper is to demonstrate your understanding of psychological theory by applying it to a real-life scenario. As such, you should focus on using the theories from all four assigned papers to analyze your first year social network, with a focus on how the theories explain (or do not explain) the patterns you observed:

- Crandall (1988) - Social Contagion of Binge Eating
- Ebbesen (1975) – Spatial Ecology, Friends, and Enemies
- Festinger et al. (1950) – Spatial Ecology of Group Formation
- Bourgeois & Bown (2001) – Alcohol Attitudes & Beliefs in Dorms

Please turn in a hard copy in class on November 14th. In addition, please turn in your paper electronically on Canvas by 3pm on November 14th (this is just for the record).

Details About the Paper

Schematic diagram (5 points). Please draw a schematic diagram of your dorm. Clearly indicate where you lived, and who lived in other rooms on the same floor (keep it anonymous - you can use first name, initials, or nicknames). Include important architectural details. You may also include optional additional details, that aid your analysis. Attach this diagram at the end of your paper (5 points).

Paper: Section 1 – Description (10 points). Please **describe** the friendship network on your dorm floor. Who was friends with whom, who was enemies with whom, who was frenemies, outcasts/loners, etc. This should not be a rote list – organize this conceptually. In addition, please choose **two behaviors/attitudes**, and describe those attitudinal similarities and differences and how they changed over time. For instance, you might describe people's study habits, exercise habits, eating, alcohol consumption, religion, political attitudes, or **any other attitude or behaviors** of your choice. (10 points). Approximately a half to one page.

Paper: Section 2 – Analysis (35 points). Please analyze the **patterns of friendship and attitudinal similarities/dissimilarities** among various floor mates, using Festinger et al. (1950), Ebbesen et al. (1975), Crandall (1988), and Bourgeois & Bowen (2001). You should include all four sources in your paper; do not pick and choose among them. **This should be the main focus of your paper.** For instance, did you observe the propinquity effect? What caused rivalries or people to dislike each other? Did you see changes in people's attitudes/behaviors over the course of the academic year? Did friends' behavior become more similar over time? **Why or why not?** Approximately 1 to 1.5 pages.

Submitting the Paper

Please turn in a hard copy in class on November 14th. In addition, please turn in your paper electronically on Canvas by 3pm on November 14th (this is just for the record).

- 1. Do not put your name on your paper.** Instead, complete the cover page with your name and make up a unique code (6-8 letters and/or numbers) we can use to identify your work. Place this unique code in the header of your paper, references page, and diagram. List this code on the coverpage of your paper, along with your name and UFID. Your name and/or identifying information (UFID) should not appear on any page **except** the cover page. We will remove cover pages and grade all papers anonymously.
- 2. Hard copy (for submission in class).** Put together a 5-page packet *on paper* that includes the cover page (page 1), your two-page paper (pages 2-3), the references page (page 4), and your diagram (page 5).
- 3. Electronic copy (for backup).** Make a five page Word document that includes the cover page (page 1), your two-page paper (pages 2-3), the reference page (page 4), and your diagram (page 5). If you drew your diagram by hand, you can take a photo with your phone and embed it in the last page of your document.
- 4. Submission.** Submit the hard copy IN CLASS on Thursday November 14. Submit the electronic Word document on Canvas anytime on or before the start of class (3pm) on Thurs Nov 14. **NOTE:** The e-copy on Canvas is a back-up, to ensure your work does not get lost or misplaced.

Late Papers

If papers are late, they will be penalized 5 points per 24 hour period, beginning at 3pm on November 14.

References and Plagiarism

Although the paper should be your own work, we encourage you to read and edit each others' papers – peer editing is a great way to get feedback on your work before submitting. The writing center is also a great resource you might wish to use.

While the TAs and Prof Westgate cannot read your work prior to submission, we are happy to chat about ideas, concepts, and answer specific questions in office hours. If you

have a general question about the paper, please ask it in the **Canvas chatroom**, as others are likely to have the same question.

When discussing the ideas of others you should give proper credit. If you are unsure whether you should cite a source, you probably should. Here is a good site explaining plagiarism: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. In psychology, the citation style is as follows: After presenting someone's idea, statistic, quote, etc., put in parentheses the authors' last name(s) and year of publication,. You can cite one of the **assigned papers** like this: Crandall (1988)

You can cite one of the **lectures** like this: (Westgate, 2019, October 14). When discussing a **specific theory** that is *not* in one of the assigned papers, but that you read about in the text or heard in lecture, you should cite it as in these examples:

“We based our video on the Elaboration Likelihood Model, as cited by Aronson, Wilson, Akert, and Sommers (2016, Section 7.3).”

“We attempted to convey a new injunctive norm, [describe what this is], as discussed by Aronson, Wilson, Akert, and Sommers (2016, Section 8.4).”

Then, on the third page of your report (not part of the one page limit) you give the full reference to what you actually read or heard, such as:

Aronson, E., Wilson, T., Akert, R., & Sommers (2016). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Westgate, E. Lecture in Social Psychology 3004 (September 13, 2019).

Festinger, L., Schachter, S., & Back, K. (1950). *Social pressures in informal groups: A study of human factors in housing*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Oishi, S., Lun, J., & Sherman, G. D. (2007). Residential mobility, self-concept, and positive affect in social interactions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 93, 131-141.

Total Length

Up to 2 pages (**single space**, excluding the diagram and references). The font should be set at 12pt Times New Roman and at least 1 inch margin.

The TAs will not be able to read anything you submit that is longer than two pages in this format (note: if you use a different format, we will reformat it, take points off, and read only the first two pages). There should be an additional page with references (following the instructions for the first paper). **Please use direct quotes sparingly, if at all**; we are interested in what *you* have to say. Do include citations, though, even if you are quoting or paraphrasing from the readings.

Some tips for writing concisely: Two pages isn't a lot of room. It's hard to write concisely without editing. Plan to write at least two drafts of your paper: a longer first draft (that will likely exceed the page limit) and a shorter revised second draft that fits in

two pages. Why? It's easiest to put everything down on the page that you need to say first, without worrying about page limits, and then go back and cut to fit your work down into the page limit. For instance, it took me 4-5 drafts to get this down to one paragraph.

Omit needless words. The Hemingway app (online) is great in a pinch. Advice from Strunk & White's *"Elements of Style"*:

"Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all sentences short, or avoid all detail and treat subjects only in outline, but that every word tell."

Many expressions in common use violate this principle.

BAD

*the question as to whether
there is no doubt but that
used for fuel purposes
he is a man who
in a hasty manner
this is a subject that
Her story is a strange one.
the reason why is that*

BETTER

*whether (the question whether)
no doubt (doubtless)
used for fuel
he
hastily
this subject
Her story is strange.
because*

"The fact that" is an especially debilitating expression. It should be revised out of every sentence in which it occurs.

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>owing to the fact that</i> | <i>since (because)</i> |
| <i>in spite of the fact that</i> | <i>though (although)</i> |
| <i>call your attention to the fact that</i> | <i>remind you (notify you)</i> |
| <i>I was unaware of the fact that</i> | <i>I was unaware that (did not know)</i> |
| <i>the fact that he had not succeeded</i> | <i>his failure</i> |
| <i>the fact that I had arrived</i> | <i>my arrival</i> |

"Who is," "which was," and the like are often superfluous.

BAD: *His cousin, who is a member of the same firm*

BETTER: *His cousin, a member of the same firm*

BAD: *Trafalgar, which was Nelson's last battle*

BETTER: *Trafalgar, Nelson's last battle*

The active voice is more concise than the passive, and a positive statement more concise than a negative one.

A common way to fall into wordiness is to present a single complex idea, step by step, in a series of sentences that might to advantage be combined into one:

Macbeth was very ambitious. This led him to wish to become king of Scotland. The witches told him that this wish of his would come true. The king of Scotland at this time was Duncan. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth murdered Duncan. He was thus enabled to succeed Duncan as king.

(51 words)

Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth achieved his ambition and realized the prediction of witches by murdering Duncan and becoming king of Scotland in his place.

(26 words)

Grading

Here is a description of typical papers for each of the grading categories:

A papers: An outstanding paper that thoughtfully describes **and** analyzes the pattern of social dynamics in the dorm; clearly demonstrates understanding of all four articles using thoughtful and well-elaborated examples. Contributes truly unique and original insights into why certain relationships formed or did not form, or why certain attitudes or behaviors did or did not change, with a focus on change over time. In cases where the theories from the articles do not appear to apply, plausible accounts are given for why such effects were not seen. The diagram is clearly labeled and detailed, with relevant architectural features (such as stairwells or bathrooms) indicated. These papers state not only *what* theories applied to their network, but focus on *why* and *how* they do so; they don't just "tell" the reader what theories apply, they actively "show" the reader how they do. Free of factual or conceptual errors.

B papers: The same as an A paper, though not as organized or observant, and the paper does not provide as much of a critical analysis or demonstrate as deep a conceptual understanding. Tendency to prioritize description over analysis; may demonstrate stronger understanding of some of the four articles than others. Papers in this range follow the instructions and satisfy all of the basic paper requirements, but struggle with applying theory, with a tendency to focus on *what happened* rather than *why it happened*. Theoretically appropriate examples are present, but may be superficial or missing deeper elaboration and engagement. Diagrams are clearly labeled, but may be less informative or detailed than A papers. Free of factual or conceptual errors. Most papers typically fall in this range.

C papers: Description and analysis are less developed. It is not as clear what social networks or friendship patterns emerged; theories from the articles are not applied very effectively. The paper addresses all required topics but contains some factual or conceptual errors. Conceptual analysis, while present, is not particularly deep. All four papers are described, but some of the four articles may be mentioned only superficially or missing detailed analysis. Focuses on description over analysis; concrete examples may be superficial or missing. The paper does not add new insight.

D papers: Description and analysis are not sufficiently developed. It is not at all clear what social networks or friendship patterns emerged, and theory is applied ineffectively, possibly with errors of application or omission. The paper does not address all required topics and/or contains major factual or conceptual errors. Conceptual analysis is missing or inappropriate; one or more of the assigned papers may be missing from analysis. The paper suggests misunderstanding of the theories and concepts involved, or omits them entirely.

F papers: The diagram and/or paper omit or fail to address all required sections. The theoretical analysis contains major factual or conceptual errors and suggests deep flaws in understanding of the theories and concepts involved. Conceptual analysis is limited or absent entirely; one or more of the assigned papers may be missing from analysis.

Cover Sheet
(fill out and attach to your paper)

Full Name

UF ID

Unique Code
(6-8 letters and/or digits)

Do not include your name or UFID anywhere other than this page.
Be sure to place your unique code in the header of each page instead.