

Prompt One: Describe how the relationship between individual and family goals exacerbate the faultlines that are present in the family. Provide an example of how intent to inform, persuade, or establish common ground factors in.

The main goal of the family was to get Olive to the beauty contest in California. While this is an easy task for some families, I saw many faultlines created within this family. Everyone was only focused on their goal, which shows that no one truly cared about the beauty contest except for the mother, grandpa, and obviously Olive. Richard made the trip difficult because he was too focused on his own goal of not being a loser and making sure his nine-step lecture was successful. Frank's goal of killing himself did not work, so he was depressed for a majority of the movie. Lastly, Dwayne's goal of being a pilot in the Air Force made it difficult for everyone around him because he did not talk and kept to himself most of the time. The family had one goal, but it was a difficult goal because it was not all their number one priority. An example of the intent to inform was when Frank informed Dwayne that he could not be a pilot because he is colorblind. Personally, I thought this was a turning point in the family because after Frank informed Dwayne, he started to speak and show his emotions better with the family.

Prompt Two: Though the family is not a work group, their behaviors can be understood through the Theory of Effective Intercultural Workgroup Communication; describe how the theory's perspectives on task/relational goals, beliefs/expectations, and bias/prejudice explain the family dynamics.

One thing the theory explains is the contextual features of the group. One of the first scenes when the family is eating together, characters started bickering with each other. This movie started abruptly, giving the viewer little to no background knowledge. For example, Richard is very rude to Frank, one of the scenes Frank was talking and Richard interrupted him by saying, "Shut up Frank". The viewer has no idea why he is so rude to him; therefore, it is important to know the context of why some characters do not like each other. Another example of the theory that describes the family dynamics is the cultural differences between characters. Frank, for example, got much backlash from the grandpa all movie because he was gay. While it was just joking around and nothing too harmful, it still explains the family dynamic of the characters not knowing each other much.

Prompt Three: Describe how the five (5) foundational **group characteristics** impact the way the family functions as a group. In what ways might these characteristics have impacted the family's approach to **information sharing** (link to an information sharing paradigm)?

The first group characteristic is size. The family is a size of six members and one thing that stood out to me was in the beginning when there was a coalition of going to the beauty contest. No one really wanted to go, but the mother, Olive, and grandpa were able to persuade everyone into going because they "forced" them to. In this scenario, it ruled three over two because Frank was never allowed to be alone, so he had to be with someone regardless. The second characteristic is interdependence, this shows when the family needs the car to start.

Interdependence is when members of a group must rely on each other, the only way the family's car was going to start was if the members of the group relied on each other to push the car until it started. Next is identity, as said before the family's goal was to get Olive to the dance competition on time. A group's identity is stronger when all members work together towards the same goal. At the end of the movie, Olive gets to the competition just on time, but I think that is because the family did not care about their identity until it was almost too late. Speaking of goals, the fourth characteristic, there was a clear goal placed within the family from the start of the movie; again, Olive's beauty contest. They had to work together to be on time for the beauty contest. Lastly is structure, throughout the movie I saw norms that were created within the family. For example, it was a norm that the grandpa was a perv, it was a norm that Dwayne did not speak, it was a norm that Richard was too focused on not being a loser. I would consider Richard's norm to be problematic because most of the members of the family did not like him because he was too hard on Olive. For example, Olive wanted ice cream at the diner, but Richard was telling her that beauty contestants do not eat ice cream because it makes you fat. However, all the other members of the family backed her up and told her it was okay to eat the ice cream.

The family shared much information with each other in this movie. For starters, they had to share much information between each other because of the size of the family. It was difficult not to share something because of their size. The family's interdependence helped information sharing because Frank needed to rely on his sister because of his attempted suicide. To do this, he had to share with the family what happened and why he wanted to commit suicide. The group's identity did not reflect on their information sharing because they all had the same goal of getting Olive to the beauty contest. There was a scene that could have showed identity with information sharing when they left Olive at the gas station and Dwayne wrote on his notepad, "Where is Olive?". As for goals, information sharing was seen here when each member's goal was told. For example, when the mother was telling Frank why Dwyane did not speak. That was information sharing because the mother was telling Frank about Dwyane's goal of being a pilot. Lastly, information sharing was noticed in structure when Richard's norm of being rude was talked about between Frank and Dwayne.

Prompt Four: Use three (3) factors from the **bona fide group perspective** to create an argument that highlights the ways in which context and environment impact the family (this means *you* choose which aspects of the bona fide perspective are the most relevant to what you're seeing). How do these characteristics impact their **team cognition**?

The three factors I chose are interdependence, time, and space. Interdependence can be seen at the gas station when Frank's ex-boyfriend runs into him. Frank's emotions were influenced by the environment because he was starting to be somewhat happy to be with his family; however, when his ex-boyfriend ran into him, he got knocked back down again. Time is seen in this movie because they have a short amount of time to get to the beauty contest. They were hit with many hardships throughout the movie that conflicted their chances of arriving on time. At the beginning of the road trip, everyone was tired and relaxed because they had enough time to meet their goal. As the movie continues, you can see the tensions rising because they are starting to run out of time. Space, I think, was the most important factor in this movie. The communication between each character changed depending on where they were. Most of the movie is set in the car, the communication was tense in the car because they were so compacted

together. However, I think each character grew with each other during these scenes because it was the most time they spent together communicating and learning more about each other.

These factors impact their team cognition in a positive manner. Their environment of being in the car together and experiencing the same things made them closer. For example, being in the hospital together and experiencing the death of the grandpa made them closer. The goal of getting to the contest on time made them work together so they did not let Olive OR the grandpa down. Lastly, their space made their team cognition the strongest because they were forced to be always together. Whether the members of the family liked it or not, they had to be in the car together for a long time. This forced them to communicate and learn more about each other.

Prompt Five: List examples from the film that represent three (3) of the five types of **ties** that are present in groups (please choose three separate examples – one for each tie). How do these ties fit within the family’s **decentralized/centralized** communication structure (choose which type of structure you see, and make it clear why you believe the family has that structure)?

The first tie that I saw in the movie was between the grandpa and Olive. I noticed an affective tie between the two because of the trust and bond created. For instance, Olive trusted the grandpa with her dance routine for the beauty contest. No one else knew what the routine was but the two of them, which shows the trust and bond the two had. The second tie I noticed was between Dwyane and Olive. I thought this was a great example of proximity because of when Dwyane found out he could not be a pilot anymore. When he found out, he was extremely upset and did not want to talk to anyone. Olive: however, somehow managed to get Dwyane back up on his feet and apologize for saying hurtful things to his family. The last tie that I noticed was between Dwyane and Frank, which I thought was a material tie. While Frank did not give Dwyane anything materialistic, he did give him some important advice about life at the end of the movie. Saying how the most boring years of your life are the most important because that is how you develop.

I thought this family had a very decentralized structure because it did not matter who talked to who. There are many examples in which the family talks to each other. One specific example I thought of is when the grandpa is talking very provocatively about girls to Dwayne. The dad tried to tell him to stop, but the grandpa continued saying he doesn’t care what Richard thought. This shows a very decentralized structure because not one person has the power of who can talk to who and about what. The family did their own thing and said whatever they wanted to say. Another example is when Frank and Richard are talking about the nine-steps and Frank is giving him a hard time about it by being sarcastic. The mom did not step in at all telling Frank to stop. Instead, she let him continue and was even laughing at some of the comments he was making.