

Trista Vogel

COMM 717*01

Differences in Communication between Significant Others within Different Generations

Introduction

Communication is the sending and receiving of a message between two or more parties. Every human communicates with another whether it's verbal, nonverbal, intentional, or not. In a relationship, the two significant others have a deeper understanding of one another and can generally know what mood the other is in, simply by how they act. Communication is an important factor in relationships, it keeps mutual understanding and balance between the two individuals. Communication begins from the very first point of initiation. This could be eye contact with a smile, a wave, or direct conversation. Once the two people conclude that they are both interested in one another, the communication may pick up rapidly. Getting to know somebody can be the most interesting part of dating, which relates to the Uncertainty Reduction Theory.

The Uncertainty Reduction Theory is very important in any type of relationship development. Uncertainty Reduction is the process of observing and/or interacting with another to gain information about them. This theory can be practiced passively by observing someone from a distance, actively by asking other about them, or interactively with verbal conversation. When meeting someone new our apprehension comes from our uncertainty of who they are and how they act. Most interpersonal relationships begin this way, but after obtaining personal information the uncertainty

reduces and communication is more at ease (Twente 2010). The popular methods of initiating contact with another person you may be intimately interested in has changed over the past few generations because communication has changed tremendously within the last 70 years in correlation to the great advancements in technology.

The purpose of this study is to research how communication patterns have changed over time beginning with the “Baby Boomer” generation ranging from ages 50-69, the Generation X ages 30-49, and Generation Y ages 18-29. Various technical devices have been created throughout these generations changing the channel and timeliness of how people receive news and other information, and definitely changing how people communicate with others, regardless of their physical location. Because of the development of the Internet and E mail, anyone can communicate with anyone in the World, without even meeting them. Generation X people have started a new trend of online dating, sometimes without ever physically meeting their lover. So they approach the uncertainty reduction theory differently than someone from the Baby Boomer generation; who had to literally speak to someone with no option of hiding behind a computer screen (Isacosta 2015). In 2015 there are so many different channels to communicate, it is completely different from how lovers interacted with one another in the 1950's.

This research is important to the study of Communication, patterns of the results may show a correlation in marriage and/or divorce rates with the advancement of technology and how it changes the way we communicate.

Literature Review

Three generations will be researched and interviewed about how they met their significant others and how they communicate in correlation to what type of technology was available to them at the time. The youngest generation of the three; Generation Y consists of those born approximately between 1986-1997 (18-29 years old.) This generation of people have the world at their fingertips with access to the internet and other channels through various, easily accessible devices. Generation X, are generally described as today's middle aged parents born between 1966- 1985 (30-49 years old.) Generation X experienced the beginning of the technology transition, but did not grow up with it from childhood. The Baby Boomers/Baby Busters are the oldest generation in this study. Baby Boomers born between 1946-1965 (50-69 years old) are known as the hard working generation, the go getters. They depended on themselves and the trust of others. For many years the only form of long distance communication were postal letters. Over time, we have advanced to telephones, e mail, text, social media, and video chatting (Cairncross 2001). All new channels of communication so, how did these new inventions change the interaction between lovers?

Generation Baby Boomers

In the time of 1946-1965 there were no calls and texts and websites that we have now. Baby Boomers corresponded through postal mail. How to write a letter was an important objective taught in school at that time. Writing letters back and forth during WWII was the only way to maintain contact, then the act just continued from there (Cairncross 2001). As for general conversation, for example a boy and a girl who met

at school, physically speak to one another. They disclose information in person, and truly spend time with them. When Baby Boomers had plans with another, they just had to trust that their date would show up as agreed, unlike today where we text each other when we are “pulling up” or “waiting in line.” Chivalry was at its peak in this time period, so men usually approached women when showing intimate interest. Men had to be outgoing, but still were vulnerable in the act of approach a woman in fear of rejection. Respect levels were a lot higher than they are now. Girls would typically get picked up by the Man, and have a nice meal which he paid for, while they enjoy each others company (Rogers 1976). Dating is very different from that now, chivalry is still around but it is now more common for a woman to financially split tabs with their man.

Relating to the Uncertainty Reduction Theory, Baby Boomers were typically interactive when getting to know someone because their prime form of communication was live conversation. When Baby Boomers dated, they actually went out on dates for harmless fun. Polygamy was not encouraged, as it is today in our attitudes and even music. The Baby Boomers settled down rather early with their significant other to start a family. Divorce rates were lower at the time, I think this has a correlation to the fact that they didn't have a million other people ready to talk to on any site, with the click on the mouse.

Generation X (MTV Generation)

Generation X consists of the middle aged people born around 1966-1985. In this time period, things are beginning to change. The number of single/divorced women increased, which entailed this new expression of independence with the single mothers

and their children. Finding someone young and settling down into a lifestyle right away, wasn't quite the norm anymore. Generation X witnessed their parent generation get laid off of thousands of jobs as the economy wasn't good, they entered the workforce earlier than what was typical. Lifestyles were changing, priorities were changing, and then a huge change with computers: the invention of email. In the 1970's both email and handset telephones were developed, opening large windows of opportunity for different types of communication (Stanley 2002). The initiation of a relationship was generally similar to the Baby Boomers, with interactive conversation and getting to know one another by taking turns disclosing information to one another.

Now with the ability to correspond via email, lovers can disclose information about them to the other through text on the computer rather than saying it. This could be assistance to someone shy, but it could also be a negative thing because sometimes a person's tone is hard to interpret via technology, especially if the two aren't well acquainted yet.

Email conversations are still an interactive way to gain information in the uncertainty reduction approach, and can also be an active strategy by using the email messages to set up a rendezvous (Twente 2012).

Generation Y (McGuire Generation)

The youngest generation in this study, born between 1986-1997, are known to be more of the rebellious and lazy generation. In the 1990's the Internet and text messages developed and became main channels of communication. With access to a whole new world, the internet, social media websites started popping up everywhere. On social

media, one creates their own account and they can create it however is desired. That is also a large problem- people create fake profiles, or pretend to be something or someone that they are not (Halford 2004). This changes the correlation to the Uncertainty Reduction Theory compared to the other generations. Since we have the ability to log on anywhere we go, it is simple to look at a potential partner's profile and form your opinion of them before you even have interactive contact (Twente 2010). Generation Y can be passive and secretive about it since everything is so easy to search on the internet.

That is another problem with what could be described as "too much communication." Generation Y is an instant gratification type, wanting results immediately. Years ago women had to wait days or weeks to receive a letter from their loved one, and today girls complain that their boyfriends don't text them back quick enough within the hour. Generation Y's feel the need to share personal information on their pages, which differs them from the older generations who seemed more private and to themselves. Today, those from Generation Y are in or around their college years and have a weird need to feel accepted and fit a certain criteria. It's like they need affirmation to know they look good and they need to hear it from someone else. The internet, with all of these different social media sites, is a perfect place to throw yourself out there for attention, good or bad. It is so easily accessible to meet new people and talk to others, that it breaks up relationships due to insecurity and infidelity. Now, someone can show potential interest by simply "liking" someone's photo on their page (Petty 2012).

Our advanced technology is great for medical research and business but hurts the communication skills on Generation Y and the others coming after that because they can hide behind a computer screen and be whoever they chose, when the Baby Boomers had to initiate and maintain communication with real and genuine effort (Cuffin 2015).

Communication and Technology

Thanks to the new gadgets from our technology geniuses, our communication patterns have changed dramatically. We once wrote letters and stretched conversations over durations of months, but now it's the exact opposite. We have the ability to video chat anyone anywhere with internet and physically see their face (Stanley 2002). We don't call to wish someone a Happy Birthday, we send a text. Relationships were physical, now you can have one that's completely digital. The advances and changes are not either a good nor bad thing, just a change in our world that we must learn to adapt to.

Qualitative Research

Methods

I interviewed 8 people; separately, ranging from ages 19-67, four males and four females. Interviewee 1 was the youngest of the eight participants, at the age of 19. Then the rest of the interviewees ages are as followed: Male 21, Male 24, Female 23, Female 31, Male 40, Female 55, Male 67. I began each interview with an introduction of myself, along with asking to record the interview. Once approved, I continued to ask all

interviewees generally the same questions (found in Appendix I) but I worded them and approached it differently depending on the age and gender of the participants, as well as adapting to the vibe I collected from them. The younger participants are more willing to openly tell their age, but with the older interviewees, specifically females- I specified that the interview was completely anonymous before asking their age. I made sure to have a completely random sample so each interviewee would be comfortable answering my questions because I previously knew nothing about them.

The first girl I interviewed was a 19 year old Sophomore at PSU I approached in the student center. She was sitting alone eating and playing on her phone so I asked if she had time to answer a few questions and she was eager to help me out. When I asked how her relationship was initiated and “got going” she said after meeting at a party “he followed me on Twitter and asked for my number, then we just texted.”

The second interviewee, a 24 year old Male answered very similarly when I asked about initiation and how he maintained contact- his answer was also texting “a lot.” The interviewee was a friend of a friend, whom I didn’t know personal details of and he invited me to his home when I asked him to be interviewed. Texting is one of the most common channels of communication with the younger generations. When I asked him about his biggest communication issue in his relationship, he said “um we would argue a lot and she would always do it in text instead of person, that would really piss me off.” I should of asked why but I felt as if I understood. It’s hard to read emotion and tone through a digital screen of words.

The third participant is a 24 year old man that I approached at Starbucks, thinking he was a little bit older. He was very charismatic and kind. He was weary to participate at first but when I started discussing what the study was about, he changed his attitude to be more eager. Up to answering my questions, him and his girlfriend of three years seemed to be very happy and communicate well. Instead of the general process of younger people texting and stalking one another on the internet he took the “old school” style and called her for a traditional date to woo her- and it worked out in his favor.

My fourth participant, a 23 year old female, I interviewed in my own home- she was my neighbor. She has a girlfriend, which I was unaware of her sexual identity so it was a surprise but I did not show any emotion or ask any questions about it in case it affected the interview. I asked each participant if they think social media can ruin relationships, and most say yes they believe so but this actually happened to her and her girlfriend, because she “caught her girlfriend snapchatting her ex.” This is not the first case I have heard of with that happening. This shows that no matter the orientation of the relationship, they still face the same trials.

The fifth interviewee was a fellow female student, just a few years older at the age of 31. She was very open and honest. I had extra questions in my mind about her but I refrained because they were not appropriate towards the study. It may be because she was a little bit older but she seemed as if she was giving not necessarily advice, but telling me things I didn't seem to already know like “when you have kids you don't separate much.”

The next interview was conducted at my workplace, after hours, with a male at the age of 40. If I could do this one over, I would have scheduled a better time when we both weren't so tired but it was spur of the moment interview. He only has a facebook and rarely uses it, which shows a difference compared to the younger participants. He answered each question short and sweet besides telling me about his girlfriend and how they met. He didn't hide behind a phone, he became a regular at the restaurant she worked at and developed a friendship over time while flirting.

The seventh interviewee, a 55 year old female, was my favorite interview. Her husband has already passed but she told me about how he asked her to a school dance and they became sweethearts and were inseparable ever since. She had a very physical relationship with her husband, when they were younger they had local places they would always meet. She was a very honest and soft kind hearted woman with a quiet voice.

My last participant was a 67 year old Male that lived in a local nursing home/ assisted living. He had a clear mind, his body was just weak so that is why he lived there. His is also a widow that does not use any social media. He knew his wife through family friends for a long time, getting to know one another physically instead of through self-created profiles on the internet.

Results

The results from my interviews prove the idea that technology has changed how significant others, or potential partners communicate. The older participants met in person and obtained conversation and flirtation in person, compared to the younger

generation who meets one another and then get stalked over a social media page before continuing on. The younger generations are more open to online dating and talking to strangers because that is what they are familiar with, compared to the older generation who doesn't use the new technology as much. One of the best responses I found in my research is from Interviewee 6. I asked if he thought social media ruins relationships and all he responded was "Do guns kill people? No, people kill people. Same concept." In my results, you can clearly see a changing pattern through the different generations and their channels of communication, and their relationship insecurities. With the new technology and access of the Internet, anyone anywhere can connect with whoever they want.

Discussion

In this qualitative study, the pattern of trust compares similarly with what was discussed in the Literature Review. Generations now, like us Millennials, have our phones glued to our hands, constantly checking others' sites and what they are doing while maintaining constant contact throughout the day. The baby boomers and older generations depended more on trust with their significant others. They didn't have cell phones to text the other that they were "pulling into" the restaurant they were meeting at; they trusted the other to meet them like they said and learned things about their partner from their partner, rather than filing through their social media pages and forming opinions over photos and things they read. I also found it interesting that the younger participants use multiple social media websites and apps but would never use a dating website, and

the older generation that doesn't use it as much, would! It shows the needs and reasons for the generations are different.

Limitations and Areas of Future Research

Time was definitely a limitation for me, considering the fact I had to choose different age groups to interview, instead of a completely random sample. Many people are personal with their business and I think another limitation was the depth and topics of my questions. Some interviewees seem detached on certain questions about past relationships, which may affect the depth of their answers.

I would love to continue this study and shift my focus on the social media aspect and the different ways it affects younger relationships. To compare generations, I would ask ask more questions about daily life and routine, along with how early couples started their families, and look into comparing education/occupation. I think the Quantitative Research survey will reveal a lot of demographic information, and the larger sample size can correlate more clear results.

Quantitative Research

Methods

To compare data and conduct quantitative research I created a one page survey (survey questions found in appendix), that is completely anonymous, to distribute to a random convenient sample of people of all ages and both sexes. I initially asked the specific age of each participant and then categorized them myself based on the generation ages. 34 participants represent the Generation Y, 36 participants of the

Generation X, and 31 Baby Boomers. To target my Generation Y sample, I distributed surveys to student around campus and in my classes. To collect data from the older two generations, I distributed them at a few different companies, like banks (with more female employees) and a machine shops (for more male population.)

When I approached each participant I had a speech-type of pitch something like “Hi, I’m doing a study for my research procedures class, would you mind taking a quick survey? It is completely anonymous. The older generations seemed more excited and eager about what I was doing asking more questions about the study compared to the younger crowd at school who have probably been approached before. Once all 100 surveys were completed, an IBM computer program (SPSS) converted our data to run statistical tests to compare the generations, and sexes with their answers.

Results

Discussion

APPENDIX

Interview Questions

Age?

Do you have a Facebook? What other Social Media apps?

How long is your longest significant relationship? Specify (marriage/boyfriend)

How old were you when you met your significant other? (Or first serious relationship partner)

How did he/she approach you? How did they continue to “flirt”?

What's your main channel of communication?

How often do you two physically hang out? How else do you interact?

What's your biggest communication issue?

Have you ever corresponded on the internet with someone you did not previously know or have met?

Do you think social media ruin relationships?

Would you ever sign up for an online dating website?

What's your ideal generation for love?

Interview 1: Female Sophomore

October 23, 2015 Overman Student Center

Q: How old are you?

1A: "I'm 19, my birthday was in March."

Q: Do you have a Facebook? Or any other social media apps?

1A: Yes I have a Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. I made a tinder but thought it was stupid so I deleted it. Oh, and snapchat.

Q: Do you have a boyfriend?

1A: Yes

-How long have you been dating?

1A: A couple months after I moved here so like, about a year.

Q: How did you two get acquainted? And how did he flirt to continue the relationship?

1A: We met at a friend's party and then a couple of days later he followed me on Twitter and asked for my number. We started texting and then just hang out in the dorms and went to the dhall and stuff.

Q: What is your main channel of communication?

1A: Probably texting but our dorms are close so we get to hang out alot.

Q: If there is one, what is your biggest communication issue?

1A: Umm, I don't know, I don't like when he goes out without me and doesn't text me or anything, I don't know what he's doing. But other than that we get along great.

Q: Do you think social media ruins relationships?

1A: Absolutely. It so common to hear about girls getting mad at their boyfreinds for "liking" a girls picture. Or if he's snapchatting another girl. It's easy to just talk to who ever you want.

Q: Have you ever corresponded with someone on the internet that you didn't know, or had never met?

1A: No I haven't talked to people before but I follow people from school that I don't really hang out with, I just see them out or something.

Q: Would you ever consider making a profile for an online dating website?

1A: No I don't think so

Q: What generation in history do you think is ideal for love and relationships?

1A: Hmm, I don't know. Definitely back in the day when men put in more effort to just one girl! Cheating is so much more common now.

I conclude with small talk and thank her for participating

Interview 2: Male, Junior**October 24, 2015 Participant's Home**

Q: How old are you?

2A: Almost 21

Q: Do you have a girlfriend?

2A: No I don't

Q: What is your longest relationship with a significant other?

2A: Ehh, probably a few months. Maybe half a year on and off.

-How old were you?

-20

Q: How did you approach her and continue flirting?

2A: I met her in small group and we had to exchange numbers for a group project. I just started texting her about homework and studied together and we just started talking.

Q: What was your main channel of communication?

2A: We texted most of the time. She went home a lot so we would FaceTime sometimes or talk on the phone. But we went out a lot together when we were both in Pitt.

Q: What do you think was your biggest communication issue, if there was one?

2A: Um we would argue a lot and she would always do it in text instead of in person.

That would really piss me off.

Q: Do you think social media ruins relationships? Do you use social media? If so, what?

2A: Yeah I think it can, if you let it. I have a facebook, twitter, and snapchat.

Q: Would you ever sign up for an online dating website?

2A: No way, I wouldn't need that.

Q: What do you think is the ideal generation of love?

2A: Oh man, I don't know. Probably back in the 70's when everyone was chill and get along.

Concluded and thanked him for participating

Interview 3: Male 24

October 26, 2015 Starbucks Coffee in Tulsa, OK

Q: How old are you?

3A: Twenty-four

Q: Are you currently in a relationship?

3A: Yes

-How long have you been dating?

-About three years now.

Q: How did you meet and approach them?

3A: I was going out to a concert with a group of my friends, and she came with a friends girlfriend. We just hit it off from there and I got her number, called and took her out that next weekend. We really hit it off.

Q: What is your main channel of communication?

3A: Well, we live together now so we spend most of our time with one another but we'll sparingly text each other throughout the work day.

Q: What is your biggest communication issue, if there is one?

3A: Hmm, Well, I don't know. I think we work pretty well with one another, we don't have many problems. I guess you could say we don't communicate well when it comes to discussing her family haha."

Q: Do you use social media? Does your girlfriend?

3A: Yeah I have a Facebook, blog, and Instagram because I like photography. But she just uses Facebook.

Q: Do you think social media ruins relationships?

3A: Not mine, not if you trust your partner and they are loyal to you. But it is common now for people to be polygamist like that weird site where you just hit yes or no on someones pictures

-Tinder?

-Yes! I think that's so strange.

Q: Would you ever consider signing up on a dating website?

3A: I can't believe how common that is but I probably wouldn't.

Q: Have you ever corresponded on the internet with someone you did not know or have never met?

3A: Yes I do a lot with blogging. I interact with many people all over the country. But nothing weird like catfish dating or trying to meet women.

I stopped asking interviewees which generation they thought was best for relationships because students seemed to have a hard time understanding. I concluded and thanked him for participating

Interview 4: Female, 23

October 26, 2015 My Home

Q: How old are you?

4A: Twenty-three

Q: Are you currently in a relationship?

4A: Yes, I have a girlfriend named *****

Q: Is this your longest relationship? If so, how long?

4A: A couple of years off and on.

Q: How did you two meet and become more than friends? How old were you?

4A: Well, we knew one another from high school. We were acquaintances because she was dating someone else. After we graduated I heard she broke up with ***** so I hung out with a mutual friend of ours and asked for advice, they ended up hooking us up pretty much. I was 21 I think.

Q: What is your main channel of communication?

4A: At first I texted her all the time and took her out to dinners and stuff. we sleep over with one another a lot but during the day we are normally constantly texting or sending each other stuff on snapchat.

Q: So you do use social media, what apps do you both use?'

4A: We both have Facebook, Instagrams, Twitters, and snapchats.

Q: Do you think social media can aid in ruining relationships?

4A: Oh yeah, we have broken up before because I caught her snapchatting her ex from high school.

Q: Have you ever corresponded with someone on the internet that you didn't know?

4A: Yes I have had a few people add and message me on Facebook that I didn't know.

Q: Would you ever consider signing up for a dating website online?

4A: No I think those are tacky. I don't think somethin's right if you search and force it.

I thanked her and concluded

Interview 5: Female 31

October 26, 2015 Pittsburg State University

Q: How old are you?

5A: I am thirty-one years old

Q: Are you married or in a relationship?

5A: Yes, I have been married to my husband, ***, for five years this December.

Q: How did you two meet and interact with one another to initiate a relationship?

5A: We met through a family friend at birthday party. We saw each other here and there for a while until our friends caught on and then he just started to woo me.

Q: What is your main channel of communication? Texting, face to face, phone?

5A: We both aren't really "phone people" which I like. He only texts me if it's something quick or sweet during the day other than that he will call. But we are together a lot with our kids. Once you get married you don't separate much.

A: What are, if there are any, communication issues between you two?

5A: Things got stressful when we had our first son but we got through it. We just need to talk and trust one another more.

Q: Do you use social media? Facebook or others?

5A: Yes, I have a Facebook.

Q: Do you think social media can ruin relationships?

5A: Oh yes. It's so sad. I know a lady who is now getting divorced because her husband's high school sweetheart found him on Facebook and **** found out.

Q: Have you ever corresponded with someone on the internet that you didn't know or haven't met before?

5A: Yes, really just on Facebook articles and blogs though.

Q: Would you ever sign up on an online dating website?

5A: No, I can't imagine being with anyone but my husband.

Thank and conclude

Interview 6: Male, 40

October 27, 2015 Workplace

Q: How old are you?

6A: Forty

Q: Are you in a relationship?

6A: No

Q: How long has your longest significant relationship been?

6A: I dated this one girl for about four years but she got knocked up by another guy.
Yeah, She's a real winner.

Q: How did you meet her and continue contact to form this relationship? How old were you then?

6A: 27. She was a waitress at this place back in Arkansas. I'd go in there a lot to eat and started being friend with her and once day she got off early and I invited her to eat with me. I got her phone number and we started dating soon after, we moved in together real quick.

Q: What was your main channel of communication?

6A: I worked on the road for a little bit so we talked on the phone when I could call but once I got back she moved in and was around all the time when she wasn't waitin' tables at the *****.

Q: Do you use social media?

6A: Not really, I got a Facebook but I don't get on it.

Q: Do you think they (social media apps) can ruin relationships?

6A: Do guns kill people? No people kill people. Same concept.

Q: Would you ever sign up for a dating website?

6A: I thought about it, but they cost money.

Q: Have you ever corresponded on the Internet with someone you have never met?

6A: No.

Thank and conclude

Interview 7: Female 55

October 30, 2015 Participant's home

Q: Under anonymous record, how old are you?

7A: Honey I'm fifty five

Q: That is a beautiful wedding ring- how long have you been married?

7A: Oh my **** passed away two years ago but we were married for 34 years .

Q: How did you meet? How old were you?

7A: He was a junior when I was a sophomore and transferred to his school. We were high school sweeties. We got married when I was 19, he was 21.

Q: How did he initiate contact? What was your main form of communication? Phone, computer, face to face?

7A: **** was one of the popular bad boys I'd never expect me to be with but he was soft on the inside. He asked me to a school dance and we were inseparable since! We didn't have phones back then to text like these kids do now, we would always meet at the local hamburger shack or the baseball fields by the library, before he got his motor cycle.

Q: Do you use social media, like Facebook or other apps?

7A: My daughter created a Facebook for me not too long ago but I'm still figuring out how to use it.

Q: Do you think social media ruins relationships?

7A: I don't know why it would? Maybe I don't know what it all is.

Q: Would you ever consider joining a dating website?

7A: *chuckles* Oh my daughter suggested that too but I don't think so.

Q: Have you ever corresponded with someone on the Internet that you did not know?

7A: No

* Concludes and Thanks*

Interview 8: Male 67

November 1, 2015 Participant's Home

Q: How old are you Sir?

8A: Sixty-seven.

Q: Are you married?

8A: Yes, but she passed away last year

Q: How long were you married?

8A: 47 years

Q: How did you meet your wife? How old were you?

8A: She was one of my sisters friends, she would always be around when we were kids and we got together pretty young.

Q: What was/is your main channel of communication? Phone, text, Face to face?

8A: ***** has always stayed home and taken care of the kids and me, I don't even have a cell phone. We just talk to each other.

Q: What is your biggest communication issue?

disregarded question and continued about his family

Q: Do you use social media, like facebook?

8A: No

Q: Do you think social media ruins relationships?

8A: I don't know

Q: Would you ever consider using an online dating site?

8A: No.

Q: Have you ever corresponded with someone on the Internet that you do not know?

8A: No.

Conclude and thank

Quantitative Research Survey

Before you begin, let me assure you that all of the information you give me is confidential and none of it will be released in any way that would permit identification of your or your family. The results will aid in the understanding of how communication between significant others has changed over the years and with the development of technology. Your participation is voluntary and about ten minutes of your time. If you are NOT 18 years of age or older, please do not fill out this survey.

Age? _____years Sex? Male Female

Do you own a smartphone? Yes No

What Social Media do you use? Check all that apply

Facebook Twitter Snapchat

Instagram Tinder Kik
 Other(s) _____ YikYak

Have you or would you ever use an online dating website?

I already have I would consider it No

Do you think social media ruins relationships?

1 Absolutely not 2 Not really 3 Don't know/ Neutral 4 Yes 5
 Absolutely

Have you ever corresponded on the internet with someone you did not previously know or haven't met?

Yes No

What is/was your longest relationship? ___ Years ___ Months

Specify relationship; ___ Boyfriend/Girlfriend OR ___ Marriage

How old were you when the relationship began? ___ Years old

What is your main channel of communication? Number them with 1 being most common

Face to Face Phone calls Text Messages
 Letters Social Media Other _____
 Email

Approximately how often do you spend time, in person, with your significant other

days a week hours a day

What methods or strategies did your significant other use to show interest?

Physical flirting, asked for a date
 Added me on Instagram (or any other social med) and liked my pictures
 Hit on me out at a bar or party
 Genuine conversation in public, building friendship before relationship
 Other _____

Short Answer:

What is your biggest communication issue? (If there is one)

How do you think "love" and relationships have changed over time?

Work Cited

Cairncross, F. (2001). *The death of distance: How the communications revolution is changing our lives*. Harvard Business Press.

Cuffin (2015). The 20 differences between Baby Boomers and Generation Y. Retrieved from

<http://elitedaily.com/life/the-20-differences-between-the-baby-boomers-and-generation-y/>

Gottman, J. M., & Krokoff, L. J. (1989). Marital interaction and satisfaction: a longitudinal view. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology*, 57(1), 47.

Isacosta (2015). List of Generations Chart. Retrieved from

http://www.esds1.pt/site/images/stories/isacosta/secondary_pages/10%C2%BA_block1/Generations%20Chart.pdf

Kim Halford, W. (2004). The future of couple relationship education: Suggestions on how it can make a difference*. *Family Relations*, 53(5), 559-566.

Orlikowski, W. J., Yates, J., Okamura, K., & Fujimoto, M. (1995). Shaping electronic communication: the metastructuring of technology in the context of use. *Organization science*, 6(4), 423-444.

Petty, R., & Cacioppo, J. T. (2012). *Communication and persuasion: Central and peripheral routes to attitude change*. Springer Science & Business Media.

Rogers, E. M. (1976). Communication and Development The Passing of the Dominant Paradigm. *Communication research*, 3(2), 213-240.

Shontell (2013). The First Ever Email, First Tweet, and 10 Other Famous Internet Firsts.

Retrieved from

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/the-first-ever-email--the-first-tweet--and-12-other-famous-internet-firsts-181209886.html>

Stanley, S. M., Markman, H. J., & Whitton, S. W. (2002). Communication, conflict, and commitment: Insights on the foundations of relationship success from a national survey. *Family process*, 41(4), 659-675.

Thielfoldt, Scheef (2004). Generation X and the Millenials. *Law Practice Today*.

Retrieved from <http://apps.americanbar.org/lpm/lpt/articles/mgt08044.html>

Univ of Twente (2010) Attribution Theory. Retrieved from

https://www.utwente.nl/cw/theorieenoverzicht/Theory%20clusters/Public%20Relations%20Advertising%20Marketing%20and%20Consumer%20Behavior/attribution_theory/

Univ of Twente (2010). Uncertainty Reduction Theory. Retrieved from

https://www.utwente.nl/cw/theorieenoverzicht/Theory%20Clusters/Interpersonal%20Communication%20and%20Relations/Uncertainty_Reduction_Theory/

Watzlawick, P., Bavelas, J. B., Jackson, D. D., & O'Hanlon, B. (2011). *Pragmatics of human communication: A study of interactional patterns, pathologies and paradoxes*.

WW Norton & Company.