



An Introduction to Human Communication

Understanding and Sharing

Eighth Edition

Judy C. Pearson • Paul E. Nelson

e i g h t h e d i t i o n

An Introduction to Human Communication

Understanding and Sharing

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**AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION: UNDERSTANDING
AND SHARING**

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dedicated

to Harry B. and Ferne G. Nelson

to the student

This book is about you. It is about how you communicate with yourself, with another person, within teams and groups, and with large audiences. The book is about you as the creator and sender of messages and about you as the listener and receiver of messages. You can apply immediately the ideas learned in the introductory course, and you can practice them for a lifetime.

This book is intended for beginning students of any age. The text does not require prior knowledge of communication studies. Written in a conversational, easy-to-read style, the book is practical and applicable. You may never dissect another frog or do another physics experiment, but you will spend the remainder of your life communicating. The purpose of this book is to increase your competence as a communicator.

about the authors

Judy C. Pearson and Paul E. Nelson are the primary authors of this textbook. Both of them have considerable experience with the basic courses in speech communication. Both have served as basic course directors, both have served as primary lecturers in the introductory courses, and both have earned teaching awards for outstanding instruction from a number of universities and professional organizations.

Judy Pearson earned her bachelors at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and both her master's and doctorate at Indiana University. She taught for Purdue University, for Bradley University, for Iowa State University, for Michigan State University, and for Ohio University before becoming Director of the Northern Virginia Center, Virginia Tech's Washington, DC, area campus.

Paul Nelson earned his B.S., B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He served as basic course director and Director of the Honors College at the University of Missouri; as Departmental Executive Officer (chair) at Iowa State University; and as Dean of the College of Communication at Ohio University. Judy Pearson and Paul Nelson are a married couple who have six children and live in Northern Virginia.

Other authors contributed to the text by writing chapters which appeared first in the seventh edition. They are Gloria J. Galanes of Southwest Missouri State University, who wrote Chapters 8 and 9 on small-group communication and leadership; and Margaret A. King of Purdue University, who wrote a chapter for the seventh edition which now appears as an appendix on interviewing for information and employment. The remaining chapters were co-authored by Judy Pearson and Paul Nelson, whose dedication to the basic communication courses was apparent from the very beginning of their relationship: they first met at a basic course conference at Northern Illinois University.

The authors enjoy hearing from students and would welcome your feedback. Judy Pearson can be contacted on e-mail at jcp@vt.edu and Paul Nelson can be contacted on e-mail at nelsonp@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu. Judy's phone number is 703-538-8310; Paul's is 703-534-5071.

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