

101595

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Essay 3 - Communication Practices Impact on Vocation

Communication is more than just an exchange of information—it shapes our reality, influences our environments, and fosters meaningful connections wherever we go. It is a powerful tool that gives life, meaning, and purpose to our interactions. The principles and practices of communication that contribute to living out my vocation are deeply rooted in my understanding of its power to create meaning, shape environments, and foster connections.

One impactful concept from my communication education comes from my Communication Theory class: the Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM). This theory asserts that persons in conversation co-create their reality and are simultaneously shaped by the realities they create. The CMM Institute states, “We are always and necessarily coordinating the way we manage our meanings with other people.” I deeply resonate with this theory because it highlights the impact communication has in every interaction. Whether through spoken words or even silence, I have the ability to influence others. CMM emphasizes that there are no opt-outs—our presence alone contributes to the meaning-making process. This aligns perfectly with my vocational calling, as I seek to be a person who creates better environments for others in every space I enter.

Additionally, my understanding of communication is enriched by the distinction between reason and speech. Bruce A. Kimball from, “The Liberal Arts Tradition” notes, “The central

thesis is that the history of what has empirically been called 'liberal arts' or 'liberal education' can be understood in terms of two basic traditions: one emphasizing 'reason,' including its various denotations of a rationale, a faculty of thinking, and an act of thinking; and another emphasizing 'speech,' including its meanings of the pronouncing of words, the faculty of talking, and a formal act of communication." This perspective underscores how speech and communication are central to education and professional life. While reason equips individuals with critical thinking skills, it is through speech and communication that ideas take form, relationships are built, and environments are shaped. Understanding this balance reinforces my commitment to using communication as a tool for leadership and service.

My understanding of communication shapes the way I approach my future, knowing that vocation is not necessarily a fixed path. As I have previously written, my calling may evolve over time. Perhaps one day, God will lead me in a different direction, instilling in me a new passion or guiding me toward an unexpected path. However, because of the principles I have learned through my communication studies, I can step into any new role with a ready heart. I recognize that I have the ability to shape meaning in any situation, even in times of uncertainty or challenge. By intentionally fostering positive communication, I can contribute to the creation of a meaningful and constructive environment for myself and those around me.

Ultimately, my communication practices are an extension of my faith and my desire to follow God's plan for my life. As a leader, if He calls me to a position of humility, I will step into it with eagerness and passion. If He calls me to a position of high impact, I will do the same. Living "the good life" is not about meeting self-imposed standards of success; rather, it is about striving to fulfill God's plan for me. Even if I may not always be perfect, my goal is to do the

most with what God has given me and let that be my standard for how I view my success in whatever I do.

I entrust my plans, aspirations, and story into the hands of the greatest Author of all time. My communication education has equipped me with the knowledge and insight to love and serve others more effectively. This aligns with my deepest desire—to live out my faith with wisdom and purpose, as Philippians 1:9-11 expresses: "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." Through my communication degree, I know that God has given me more knowledge about how to love others and shown me more about how to love like Him. Through communication, I seek to live with wisdom, awareness, and faithfulness, creating meaning wherever I go and striving to fulfill the calling God has placed on my life.

Sources:

CMM Institute. (2018). *A brief overview of the coordinated management of meaning (CMM)*.

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Kimball, B. A. (2010). *The liberal arts tradition: A documentary history*. University Press of America.