Interpersonal Communication Module
Understanding Interpersonal Misunderstandings
With Ron Adler

Directions: Go to the Speech Lab, and ask the lab instructor for the VHS-tape “Understanding Interpersonal Misunderstandings.” (Do not remove the tape from the speech lab).

Review the following questions before watching the video to become more familiar with the assignment. Then type your answers to these questions in the lab or at home. Note: Please retype the questions.

1. How often do we misunderstand messages from close friends or our intimate partners?

2. Describe one of the three stories used on the tape to explain why misunderstandings occur in communication.

3. What may have caused the misunderstanding in the three stories told by Ron Adler? Hint: the answer begins with an “s.” Please explain what this “s” word means?

4. List two methods to decrease misunderstandings in communication given by Adler’s students.

5. What are the six different levels at which a message may operate (or be misunderstood)? In your answer, make sure to define each of the 6 terms briefly.

6. What are two methods we could use to insure that we understand a message correctly? Note: the answers begin with the letter “p.” Make sure to define each one. Their definitions can be found in Looking Out Looking In.