


Learning Spaces for Communication

Spaces designed for communication need to allow for delivery of information in a variety of ways. This might include digital, verbal, as well as visual, where all involved can actively contribute to the conversation. A “living room feel” where comfort and spontaneity can happen, are important. As highlighted in In Sync: Environmental Behavior Research and the Design of Learning Spaces, “communicating knowledge requires both formal and informal places where direct eye contact and face-to-face interactions may occur.”

ENVIRONMENTS	ARCHETYPAL ATTRIBUTES*			
	Icon	Behavioral Premise	Process Steps	Protocol Attributes
Communicating		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information • Provide quick exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize information • Deliver • Receive and interpret • Confirm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge is dispersed • Impromptu delivery • Casual • Active learning

Webber, Lennie Scott. *In Sync: Environmental Behavior Research and the Design of Learning Spaces*. Ann Arbor: Society for College and U Planning, 2004. 2009. Web. Oct. 2015.

What is skilled communication?

Students are communicating when they connect and share ideas, and when they choose the right medium(s) to express their thoughts. In this Guide, the term *communication* includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and performing.

Communication today takes many different forms and includes presentations, written documents, podcasts, blogs, visual texts, and performances, to name just a few. Increasingly, there is a need for students to effectively express complex ideas to a variety of audiences. The nature of communication in the digital age also requires us to think of communication in multi-modal forms -- that is, the use of more than one mode at the same time, such as video and text -- to present a message. We need to provide students with many opportunities to practice communicating: organizing their ideas into a coherent message, interpreting and synthesizing information from multiple sources, and sharing that information with a variety of audiences in a variety of contexts.

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