**Prompts: A list of possible communication dilemmas to consider**:

1. Communicative dilemma: Sometimes adult children want to make choices that their parents do not approve of. Develop a communicative dilemma from the perspective of an adult child where they want to declare something that is likely to deeply offend their parent. (This dilemma should not focus on *making a decision*, but instead about *communicating* an unpopular decision to one’s parent(s)).

*Possible identities in tension with one another*

Interactional identity: Being a good child

Personal identity: Independent, Honest, Trustworthy, Respectful (or specific identities that lead away from parents)

Relational identity: Equal or superior, distant or close, trusting or wary

1. Communicative dilemma: Sometimes families have shifting roles, where parents and children are also friends or siblings take on parental responsibilities for their siblings. Develop a communicative dilemma related to role conflicts within a family where the choice between two different interactional or relational identities is likely to significantly impact the relationship.

*Possible identities in tension with one another:*

Interactional identity: Child, parent, sister, brother, friends, step-parent, grandparent

Relational identity: Equal or superior, distant or close, trusting or wary, protective

Personal identity: Honest, supportive, kind, trustworthy, fun

1. Communicative dilemma: How do you build friendships at work without signaling interest that could be seen as sexual in nature? Develop a communicative dilemma that explores building relationships in a work environment.

*Possible identities in tension with one another*

Personal identity: friendly, outgoing, supportive, playful, jokester

Relational identity: equal or superior, close

Interactional identity: co-worker, friend, acquaintance

Master identity: male, female, heterosexual, homosexual

1. Communicative dilemma: How do you give advice to someone that you care about that they do not want to hear? Develop a communicative dilemma from the perspective of the advice-giver where the advice itself is face threatening.

*Possible identities in tension with one another:*

Master identities: male, female, age, ethnicity

Interactional identities: (lots of possibilities) friend, parent, child, co-worker, boss, sibling

Personal identity: (lots of possibilities) straight-shooter, trustworthy, expert, reliable

Relational identity: equal, superior, distant, close, trusting, wary

1. Communicative dilemma: How do you refuse sexual advances from someone that you want to maintain a non-sexual relationship with? Develop a communicative dilemma where turning someone down reveals a tension between multiple desired identities.

*Possible identities in tension with one another:*

Master identities: male, female, age, homosexual, heterosexual

Interactional identities: friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, co-worker, boss, student, teacher, pal

Personal identity: honest, considerate, respectful, tomboy, and more

1. Communicative dilemma: During interviews, you often doing identity work to establish yourself as the type of person who should be hired. Yet sometimes you want to construct multiple identities that could be in tension with each other. Develop a communicative dilemma that someone faces within a job interview. Consider a dilemma that allows the class to discuss some of the following issues: confidence vs. cockiness, stance indicators of respect, emotional labor, professional communication.

*Possible identities in tension with one another:*

Master identities: male, female, age, ethnicity

Personal identity: honest, confident, respectful, resourceful, passionate, driven, prepared, independent, team-player, reliable, energetic, humble, knowledgeable, positive, leader, entrepreneurial, flexible, focused, successful, organized

1. Communicative dilemma: How do you correct an instance of intercultural miscommunication without threatening the other person’s face? Develop a communicative dilemma where you are aware of different interpersonal ideologies that have created miscommunication.

*Possible identities in tension with one another:*

Master identities: ethnicity, age, gender

Personal identity: respectful, curious, leader, honest