

Which of the Following Is an Example of a Group?

- Cheerleaders at a school
- A high school football team
- People lined up to vote
- Women at a baby shower
- Pedestrians at a crosswalk

Primary Groups

- Coined by Charles Cooley
- Consists of:
 - Two or more people
 - Much interaction
- Must know a lot about each other
 - Strong, emotional ties
- “the nurseries of human nature”
- Values and norms learned here are lifelong
- Such groups include families, couples in love, street gangs, social clubs



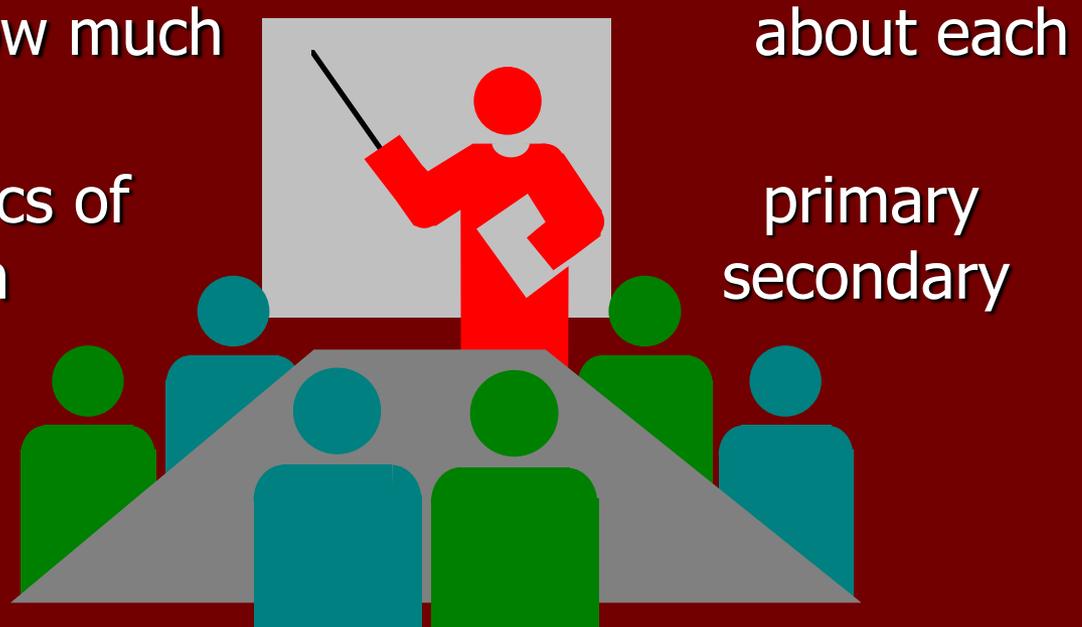
Four Features of a Primary Group



- Continuous, face-to-face interaction
- Strong ties
 - Emotional support must exist
 - Not limited to locality
- Multifaceted
 - Group work shared equally
- Enduring; last a lifetime
 - Families are prime example

Secondary Groups

- Members:
 - have similar goals
 - act formally with one another
 - Have specific roles
- Not as much interaction as in primary groups
- Typically don't know much other
- Often characteristics of groups exist within groups



Secondary Group Characteristics

- Secondary groups are very task oriented
- Examples include:
 - School committees
 - Church
 - Clubs
 - Special event planning
- Modest or weak personal identity with the group
- Completion of common task usually marks end to group
- Weak ties of affection
 - Relationships not very enduring

Why Join a Group ?

- To satisfy the need to belong and feel connected
- To compare experiences and talents
- To use group standards to evaluate ourselves
- For companionship
- To lessen anxiety and provide comfort
- Accomplish things not possible individually

Peer Groups



- A group of friends or associates of about the same age and social position
- Strongest during adolescence
- Peers form cliques, clubs, gangs
 - Identify with own set of norms
 - May require initiation rites
 - gangs
 - Fraternities/sororities

Reference Groups

- A group that serves as a standard for evaluating one's achievement, behavior, or values
- Identifying with it does not always mean belonging to it



Group Dynamics



- Additional members affects interaction within the group
- Dyad = two-person group
 - Both must participate
- Adding members changes composition of group
 - Dyad to triad, etc.
- Division of labor changes as well

The Triad

In a triad, one person may make a big difference in the group. For example, when a couple has their first child, their lives change dramatically. Whenever they want to go somewhere, they either need to get together everything they need to take the baby along, or they need to hire a babysitter. Sleepless nights, day care, and preschool also present new challenges. Finally, the relationship between the parents may change as well.



Leadership

- Groups need leaders for two reasons
 1. Manage and direct group activities/keep it on task
 2. maintain group morale
- Groupthink = what happens when group members are isolated from social or moral environment



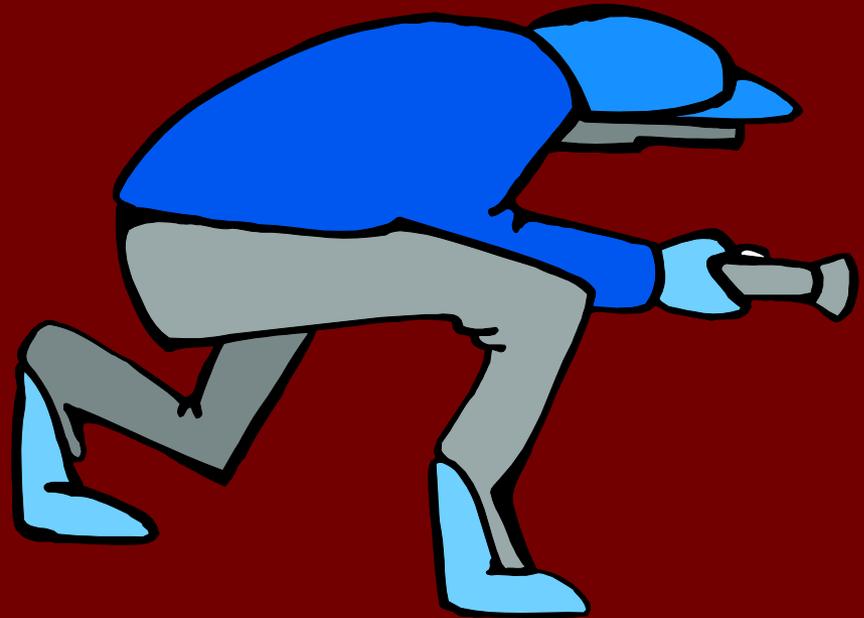
Groupthink

- Emphasizes group decisions in large organizations
- People working together will make better decisions than an individual



When Does Groupthink Occur?

- When group members are unable to evaluate other available options
- Inability to comprehend negative consequences



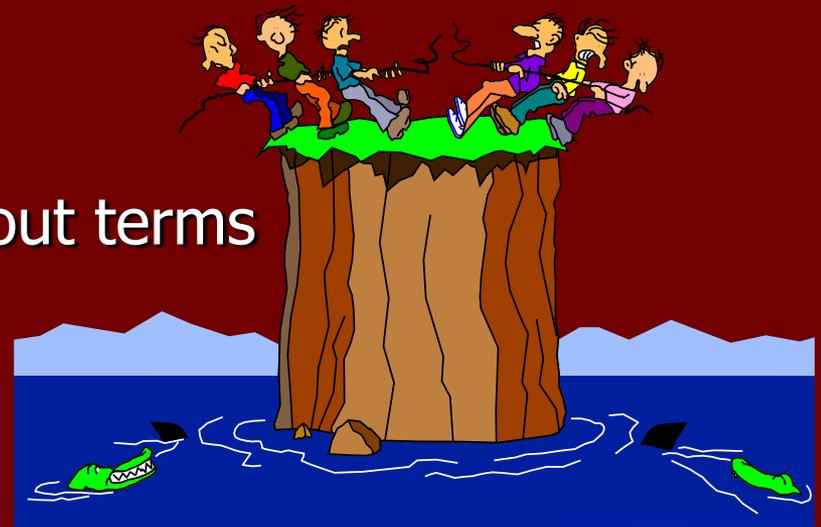
Conditions for Groupthink



- The group is isolated from the outside world
 - Can cause loss of perspective
- There are time limits
 - “hurry up” or hasty decisions
 - Meeting deadlines, upcoming events, managing crisis situations
- Not having an impartial leader
 - Kennedy, FDR, and Nixon all victims during presidency

In-groups

- A group with which a person identifies and feels that he or she belongs
 - Initiation rites often required
 - Teams, cheerleading squads, sororities/fraternities, and gangs
 - Looking for a separate identity
 - Generational differences spell out terms
- A “greedy group”
 - Adhere only to group
 - Requirements for membership call for “death to self”



Characteristics of In-groups

- 1. Sacrifice – give up something of value to join
- 2. Investment – contribute resources like time, labor, money
- 3. Renunciation – give up relations that interfere or cause question of group beliefs
- 4. Communication – believe can enhance lives
- 5. Mortification – death to one's private self; condemnation of self-pride
- 6. Transcendence – special power or virtue from being part of the group

Out-groups

- A group with which a person does not identify and does not feel that he or she belongs to

