

1. Identify the main idea(s) involved in the following concepts, provide example(s), and briefly discuss how they are related to the development, maintenance or reduction of intergroup conflict:
 

(a) intergroup conflict	(e) illusion of out-group homogeneity
(b) mediator vs arbitrator	(f) aversive event
(c) ethnocentrism	(g) ultimate attribution error
(d) discrimination	(h) superordinate goal

The study of intergroup conflict focuses on 4 major issues: (a) How and why does it start?; (b) Why does it persist once it starts?; (c) How does engaging in group conflict with others affect the group itself?; and (d) What strategies or tactics can reduce or resolve intergroup conflict? Let's deal with these issues individually:

2. Development of Intergroup Conflict: There are 3 main bases for the development of conflict between groups. Identify the main idea(s) involved in each of these sources of conflict, and provide a concrete example showing how the concept or process works.
  - (a) Actual differences in the goals and outcomes perceived to be caused by the opposing group (i.e., "realistic group conflict").
  - (b) In-Group vs Out-Group Identification and Ethnocentrism (i.e., "social identity theory of intergroup behavior").
  - (c) An initial aversive event that expands into broader overt conflict between the opposing groups.

Discuss the setup and findings of Sherif's "Robbers Cave" experiment, and show how processes discussed above contributed to the development of conflict between the boys' groups.
3. Persistence of Intergroup Conflict: A key factor in maintaining conflict between groups is perceptual bias, both in how the "out-group" is perceived, and in how the performance of both the in-group and out-group is evaluated. Discuss and illustrate how the following factors contribute to this kind of perceptual bias.
  - (a) Misperception of out-group homogeneity
  - (b) Group stereotypes about the out-group
  - (c) The "ultimate attribution error" (e.g., self-serving attributions)
  - (d) Bias in the evaluation of the performance of the in-group and out-group
4. Impact of Conflict on Between-Group and Within-Group Processes: Ongoing conflict between groups can change the internal dynamics of the groups themselves, which makes it more difficult to reduce or resolve the conflict. Discuss why of each of the following factors may occur during conflict, and illustrate how each factor contributes to the changes in the within-group dynamics.
  - (a) Changes in group cohesion
  - (b) Increasing militancy in the leadership
  - (c) Changes in the priority and enforcement of norms
5. Resolution of Intergroup Conflict: Fortunately, researchers have found some strategies that reduce the level of conflict between groups. Identify the main idea(s) of each of these conflict resolution techniques, and show how they work to reduce intergroup conflict.
  - (a) superordinate goals
  - (b) intergroup contact (and elaborate on which kinds)
  - (c) mediation vs arbitration
6. Select one of the following examples of intergroup conflict, and using the ideas presented in this chapter, discuss in some detail: what is the nature of the conflict (i.e., what are the specific issues), how and why the conflict began, why it persists, and what (if anything) might be done to reduce or resolve the conflict. If you have some other major example of intergroup conflict with which you are more familiar, you can identify it, then discuss the same issues for that conflict.
  - (a) pro-life vs pro-choice groups on the abortion issue
  - (b) Israel vs Palestine in the middle east conflict
  - (c) pro-evolution vs pro-"intelligent design" groups
  - (d) "secure borders" vs pro-immigration reform groups
  - (e) conflicting sides of the stem cell research issue