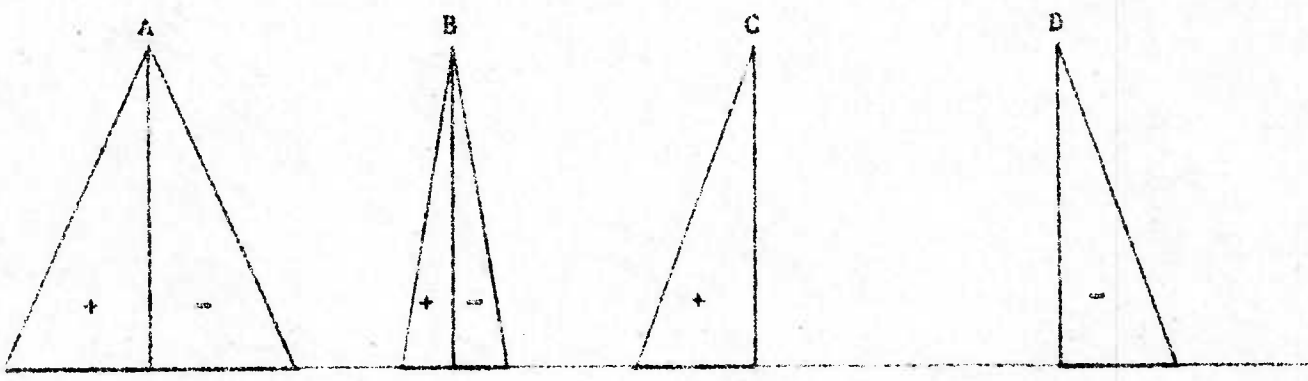


GROUP SKILLS: "STYLE" AS A FACTOR IN GROUP LIFE.....Willie Elliott

1. What is my interpersonal style as I/others perceive it in this group? See A-D, the distributive model (below).



EXPLANATION:

- A: emotionally expansive, low-level social sanction (fear of "What will the others think of me?") (desire for "What should I do so the others will think well of me?"). Here is relative freedom from criticism/compliment, "free" here being a neutral term, i.e. leaving open in the particular situation whether I should be free of or bound by a particular social sanction (life-style, custom, law, rule, configuration of relationship, set of expectations). But "freedom" also in this good sense: from the neurotic or ignorant need to impose one's style on the others (since humans so differ in basic style, for genetic-historical-social-volitional reasons).
- B: uptight, leaving open whether in this situation that's good or bad (and also leaving open the possibility that this is a valid life-style, as in the Stoic philosopher).
- C: "If you can't say something nice about a person don't say anything." Thinking-speaking-relating limited to the positive, the affirmative, the complimentary (passive and active). The well-known Waspy formula for intrapsychic alienation of attention-consciousness from the emotions, guaranteeing inauthentic human relations, the "keep the lid on" style of handling problems (avoiding conflict), and the inevitable explosions (often cruel).
- D: often the situation when "C" explodes--followed by oscillation between "C" and "D." Dominantly negative.

2. What is our group's style (A-D)?

3. What are the variables in this situation?
- ...my personality type
  - ...others' personality types
  - ...our group's dominant life-style
  - ...the event itself (the situation we're addressing)

4. What methods of reality-testing should we use in this situation?

5. Situational adaptations: Should I/we behave differently from my/our "normal," here?