

1. Both Jim and his parents make attributions to explain his grades. Describe the dimensions of Jim's attributions and those of his parents.

- I believe that Jim's parents are portraying a second dimension type of attribution. First a second dimension attribution can consist of "variable temporary factors". I choose this one because Jim's father feels he can do it; he's just not doing it at the moment. He doesn't feel his son is incompetent or can't comprehend the work the language he is using is an in the moment type of feeling. Jim is using a third dimension attribution which means "the explanation of actions as the results of global factors or specific factors. Jim says "My dad's this brilliant guy..." which corresponds with the third dimension attribution because he's saying school came easy to his father because he is just this brilliant guy.

2. How might you assess the accuracy of Jim's attributions? What questions could you ask him to help you decide whether his perceptions are well founded or biased?

- I believe that Jim's attributions are simply biased because for one his father's statement about his grades had a lot of holes and could be taken in any way the mind could allow. I believe by his father telling him that he feels that he needs to study everyday all day to be a straight A student, Jim already feels like the classes are hard obviously he doesn't understand but you can read material over and over and still not understand it. So to Jim he could be studying and he still doesn't get it but his father isn't understanding that in his eyes. Jim's father could have also gone through the same in college and Jim might not know. Everyone thinks their parents are a genius for the most part. I used to think my mother was the smartest woman on this planet until I started growing up and going to college as well. I believe this whole conversation was handled in a controlling, parental view when what Jim really needs is reassurance that he can figure this out and maybe some guidance. I would ask him why he thinks his father is a genius or if he asked his father what helped him get on the right track or understand material. Maybe what type of studying style helped him with learning the material.

3. What constructs, prototypes, and scripts seem to operate in how Jim and his parents think about college life and being a student?

- The script for school that Jim's parents withhold is to study hard and get A's. Especially because they feel they are making it easy for him by paying for it when his father had to work and pay for his own on top of the commitment to a frat. I believe that the prototype is his father's experience in college. His father set the bar for how difficult but achievable college is so now his parents don't expect any less again because they are helping him by paying for it so he can focus on

studying and homework. So in his parents eyes he has ample time to study and if he's not studying they obviously think he is with his friends. Lastly the constructs I believe are simply the fact that his father is judging the fact that he could be with his friends during his freetime and not accepting or thinking about the fact that he might actually just be having trouble and needs help.

4. What could you say to Jim to help him and his parents reach a shared perspective on his academic work?

- I would tell Jim to really sit down and speak to his parents about needing help and how they are making him feel like he has no way of being successful because he feels studying isn't helping him if he simply doesn't understand. I believe his parents need to do a better job of being understanding rather than setting a standard that is mandatory to meet when in reality that is very unrealistic to expect someone to be just like you. He just needs to explain he isn't his father and somethings might be easier for him then it was for his father but in this case school is harder for him than it was for his father. Hopefully his parents can be more understanding in that aspect so they can help him and his father with the great knowledge on studying can teach his son how to properly study.