

Introduction explode if he is called out

[Art & Culture](#)



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Introduction to and Summary of the Case” It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia,” is the longest-running sitcom series on television. “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia,” is about five dysfunctional alcoholic friends (the Gang) who own a bar called Paddy’s Pub in Philadelphia, together. The Gang includes Dee, Dennis, and Frank Reynolds, Charlie Kelly, and Mac. The Gang challenges the social norms of society and the humor in the series shows how the gang is selfish, unaware and oblivious, they are compared to the outside world. Sometimes they care about the bar and other times they don’t care and get drunk. The Gang comes up with insane schemes and they use Frank’s money to make it happen. The Gang has never hesitated to backstab each other if there is something to be gained.

Dennis Reynolds is the owner of Paddy’s Pub and one of the bartenders. He is a narcissist, control freak, and charming womanizer. Dennis is the most psychopathic of the gang. He has an extreme temper and will explode if he is called out on it. He is the only one to graduate from an Ivy League college because of this he thinks he is superior to the others in the Gang. Since he is a control freak and narcissist he takes the position of the leader of the Gang. He has an older twin sister, Dee. Dee known as Bird is one of the bartenders at the bar.

She’s a struggling actress and comedian that does not have a chance of becoming famous. She has an intense fear of crowds and cannot talk to them without wanting to throw up. Like her brother Dennis, she is manipulative and controlling, but she usually gets the short end of the stick with the gang. She likes to consider herself one of the guys. She is the only female that is a part of the Gang, so they constantly make fun of her.

<https://assignbuster.com/introduction-explode-if-he-is-called-out/>

She lives alone with her cat but then everyone starts moving in her apartment without asking. Frank Reynolds is Dee and Dennis's father and possibly Charlie's biological father as well (he had an affair with Charlie's mom). He is a new character that was added in season 2.

Frank is a successful businessman and his wealth allows the gang to do whatever crazy shenanigans they would want to do it without having to worry about money. Since the Gang did not want him hanging out at the bar, he bought the bar from under the Gang to make sure he could hang out there. He is a pervert, sleazy, and insane old man.

He prefers having to live in poverty with Charlie. Charlie Kelly is the one who does all the janitorial work or "Charlie work," at the bar. He suffers from deep psychological problems and lives in poverty. He has an anger problem and abuses substances, such as glue and sprays paint.

He is childish, lacks social skills, full of energy and enthusiasm. He studied bird law and likes to use big lawyer words. He lives in a little run-down apartment and sleeps on a pull-out couch surrounded by trash.

He is obsessed with the waitress a woman he does not have a chance with, cats, and cheese. Compared to the others in the gang he is the most "kind-hearted." Charlie is the wildcard in the gang. Mac is the "dumb muscle" of the bar. He is always trying to show off that he is a "tough badass", even though he has no real physical skill.

He is a contradictory Christian and self-righteous, and ambiguously gay. He likes to do things that imply he is gay, but he will deny it and say being gay is

a sin. The entire group knows he is gay but when they say it he plays dumb and acts confused. He makes up stories to seem cool to the Gang because he is desperate to be loved by everyone including his parents. There are many communication theories that can be applied to this TV series because of the controversial topics that are included in each episode. This case study will focus on the application of standpoint theory and social judgment theory in the TV series.

Both of these theories apply perfectly to the TV series. There are many examples from this TV series that can be analyzed and interpreted by these two theories. Theory Summary and Application Standpoint Theory Nancy Hartsock and Sandra Hardy where the Pioneers the feminist standpoint Theory, which we now know as just standpoint theory, because it does not only apply to feminism anymore (Griffin, 2012). Standpoint theory originally comes from Marx and is a postmodern method for analyzing inter-subjective discourses. The main concept of standpoint theory is how being a member of a social group shapes what individuals experience, know, feel, do, as well as how they understand social life as a whole. Standpoint theory comes from critical reflection and engagement in an oppositional stance to the dominant one.

Standpoint theory is not just a perspective but it is rooted in a person. Standpoint theory happens in the recognition that unequal relations are responsible for the marginalization or oppression of those groups that are shaped by that inequality and it critiques claims of commitment knowledge. Standpoint theory is a person's attitude and viewpoint on a particular issue based on their experiences everyone has a different standpoint because we don't have the same experiences as others. There are standpoints based on

<https://assignbuster.com/introduction-explode-if-he-is-called-out/>

geographical location, race, socioeconomic status, and gender differences (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg.

58).” Another example, Dee is a woman who speaks bluntly and because of this, she is viewed negatively by the Gang. Dee is clear and direct with the way she sends her messages but because of social hierarchies and norms that expect women to be quiet can prevent her message from being heard. When there is an issue that the Gang needs to solve, Dee will voice her opinion and even though her idea might be good the Gang tends to block her out or put her down just for a laugh. There is even an episode that Dee becomes so depressed and gives up on her appearance the rest of the gang gets worried. They start “listening” and “helping” her to become a successful comedian. It gets to the point where she can even tell jokes in front of crowds despite her fear and urge to throw up.

A manager comes up to her and offers her a job. She starts being the same old Dee again. This is when the Gang realizes that the manager is just a paid actor to trick her. She loses her self-confidence. She asks why they would do that? Pull such a big prank and they say they just wanted her back to normal and now that she is they could tell her the truth. They start laughing at her for thinking she could be a famous comedian because women are not funny. Their standpoint is that women should be looked at and not heard. Dee’s standpoint is that since she is a woman that women can do anything they can put their minds to.

Another example is when the Gang decides to leave the bar for some different scenery at the park and they instantly regret it. While they are there

a football is thrown in their direction and the guy who threw it says the Philadelphia Eagles are having tryouts. Dee says she wants to try out and The Gang tells her she cannot try out because she is a girl. She said well see about that. Dennis and Mac show up to tryouts and Dee shows up dressed up like a man so she can tryout.

She outperforms all the guys at the tryouts including Dennis and Mac. Since she is doing so well, she decides to reveal she is a woman to everyone who is left with the tryouts that she is a woman. She states that she is going to kick the ball 60 yards to prove that woman can be just as good as men. When she goes to punt she ends up breaking her foot. Mac and Dennis feel like that proves they were right in their standpoint.

The Gang's standpoint is that women are weak and cannot play sports. They believe that football is a man's sport. Dee's standpoint since she is a woman is different from the Gang's. Her standpoint is that women are equal to men in all aspects. An example of a standpoint based on race is in the first season in episode one. The episode starts with Charlie, Mac, and Dennis in the bar counting their profits from the bar from the night before. After counting everything they talk about closing the bar because they cannot pay rent.

Dee walks in and says that her friend from theater class is coming to the bar and not to act strangely. As Dee is debating with the guys if they are strange or not, her black friend Terrell walks into the bar. The guys act surprised this black guy has walked in and they tell him the bar is closed. Terrell tells them he knows and is confused by the way Mac tells him, "we do not any trouble." The guys saw Terrell as a threat and got fearful. Dee tells the guys that he is

Terrell from her acting class. They laugh and say sorry about what has just happened to break any tension and from making it seem like they are racists.

Dennis tries to explain to Terrell why their behavior is acceptable. Mac, Charlie and Dennis's standpoint caused them to react frightened and defensive when they met Terrell. They perceived the world from their particular standpoint based on their experiences. Dee views the world from a different standpoint than the Gang. Therefore, she perceived the situation and the band differently and she did not see a problem with her friend's race. Here again, we see how the gang's particular standpoint makes them act and communicate a certain way.

One might say they are naive because their past experiences have caused them to judge others. This is where the standpoint theorist idea about people of the dominant having a less subjective view of the world. Privileged groups are not forced to observe the realities of inferior groups; therefore, their standpoints are usually more narrow and biased. Social Judgment Theory. Muzafer Sherif and his colleagues called the analysis of attitudes the social judgment-involvement approach, but most scholars refer to it as social judgment theory. The social judgment theory (SJT) is the perception and evaluation of an idea by comparing it with current attitudes.

Sherif says the SJT is, " a classic in social psychology; it has had a long-term impact on the study of social persuasion (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg. 58)." SJP started with research that showed how context affects the assessment of physical objects.

Social perception is the way humans judge messages. Sherif says, "In interactions with others, we rely on our internal anchor or reference points; these are based largely on previous experiences (Littlejohn, Foss, 2017, pg. 58)." There are three levels of SJT: 1. Latitude of acceptance, 2. Latitude of rejection, and 3. Latitude of noncommitment. (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg.

58-59)." The first level of SJT is the latitude of acceptance is the range of ideas that a person sees as reasonable or worthy of consideration and "it's made up of the item you underlined and any others you circled as acceptable (Griffin, 2012, pg. 195)." Assimilation effect is if something falls within the latitude of acceptance. Arguments are seen as more persuasive and fall within the latitude of acceptance. An example of the latitude of acceptance is in the episode where Charlie writes, *The Day Man Cometh*, it is a musical that he wants the Gang to help him perform. The episode starts with Charlie entering the bar all excited and singing and he tells the Gang about the awesome musical he just wrote. The Gang is skeptical as to why he would write a musical, so they start guessing the ulterior motive.

Charlie starts yelling at them saying they are wrong and he just did it to do it. Charlie uses persuasion to convince the Gang to be in the musical. He states, if you guys do not want to be in it he can give away their parts. This is when the Gang decides they want to be a part of it. The anchor he uses is he knows that all of them like to be in the spotlight and would want to do it knowing he wrote parts specifically for each one of them. Before he says he will give away their parts the gang did not want to be part of it and were determined to find out why he wrote it. Once he says she says they have parts

<https://assignbuster.com/introduction-explode-if-he-is-called-out/>

that is when They drop the subject and want to be in it and Charlie has gotten what he wanted.

The second level is called the latitude of rejection this is the range of ideas that a person sees as unreasonable or objectionable (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg. 59). This means that I am dealing with the previous statement. If a message falls under the latitude of rejection, attitude change will be reduced or nonexistent; “ Contrast effect is if the message is distorted negatively and perceived as the father from and less similar to your anchor position than it actually is (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg. 59).

” An example is when Dee is singing a song and her interpretation of the song was different than Charlie has written. Dee is expressing her latitude of rejection by not wanting to sing the song because she finds it unacceptable. Charlie tells her that is fine and the song is out and that is when she asks what else will she sing and he tells her to turn to the back page and it is blank. Charlie tells her its either sing the song or there is no song and Dee is upset and says hey this is her only song. This is when you see Charlie has persuaded Dee into doing the song. Charlie starts to express his anger and ask, “ was it dee who wrote a musical? No, it was Charlie.” He gives her three options either she does the song, the pianist will sing the song because dee did not write it, or he will strap on a wig and sing the song himself.

Charlie asks, “ Song or no song?” Dee says, “ Song, yeah song. I was never not gonna sing the song. I would like to do it.” After that, she takes her place back on stage. He knows how bad Dee wants to be an actress but he knows

this is his musical. Boomerangeffect happens if your position strengthens the discrepant message (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg.

59).”. An example in the same episode, Dee tries to add a song to the play right before they perform. She tries to do it last minute to get her way, but Charlie tells her he will slap her face into tiny pieces. She said, “ okay, no song.” Earlier, we saw that Charlie needed to convince her into doing the song but this time he does not need to use as much persuasion to get Dee to let go of adding another song. Even though Dee has a high ego most of the time, Charlie is able to convince her rather fast. The last level of a latitude is the latitude of non-commitment the range of ideas that a person sees as neither acceptable nor objectionable (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg.

59).” At the end of the play, Charlie comes out singing a song that was not included in the script. Everyone is watching him to see what is going on and that is when he asks the waitress to marry him. The waitress gets up and starts to walk away. Charlie is stunned that his plan of writing the musical just to persuade the waitress into falling in love with him has failed.

The musical is a metaphor for what Charlie would like to happen between him and the waitress. He is the boy and Dayman and the waitress is the princess in the story. The waitress does not find Charlie’s idea making a musical just for a marriage proposal as acceptable or unacceptable. She does not have any feelings toward what has just happened, she just wants Charlie to leave her alone. This time Charlie did not have a strong enough argument to change the waitress latitude. Ego involvement is the sense of the personal relevance of an issue, demonstrated by membership in a group with a stand.

If a person has a high attitude relevance of the topic they may feel passionate about it they have a high ego (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017).” For example, this person would be Charlie since he is so passionate about his musical.

This high ego would make it very difficult for them to persuade or doing the opposite side. An example of this is when the Gang tries to make adjustments to the musical and Charlie is not having it. If a person has a low attitude they would have a low ego towards the topic at hand this means they are easy to persuade to join your cause. An example of this is the rest of the Gang and how at first, they were not interested in Charlie’s musical but once he said they had parts they jumped on board. Conclusion Both standpoint theory and SJT can be applied very well to this case. The TV series relies on the main characters to show their thought processes through communication. The two theories are closely related in the sense that they both have to deal with the thought process people have.

Standpoint theory is not just a perspective but it is rooted in you. A person’s standpoint regulates how they will compose, analyze and relay messages. One of the limitations of using this theory is it results in generalizations and stereotypes. All members of a group are not the same because they can belong to more than one group. An example is how Charlie is the one that stands out the most because he is purer and kind compared to the others in the group. Even though he has been hanging out with these people since he was in high school, he still has a different way of thinking. Like one-day Dee offers to take Charlie out for a Spa day. Charlie is so confused he thinks a spa day is short for spaghetti day.

<https://assignbuster.com/introduction-explode-if-he-is-called-out/>

They are a part of the same group but Dee came from a different social economical background than Charlie. The biggest strength of standpoint theory is it has been good for grabbing the attention of communication behaviors of different social groups, increasing our knowledge of human interaction. An example is how a scientist sees how Charlie interacts at the bar and wants to do a study on him and the rest of the Gang.

Another example is the Gang grabbed the attention of a toymaker and he is interested in mass producing a board game they have created together. He wants to watch how they play the game because it is so unusual. In this episode, you can see how different the Gang is compared to other groups in society. Social judgment theory is important because it says each audience member will perceive a persuasive message differently from each other. How we respond to the messages depends if the message falls in their anchor and latitude.

There are three levels of SJT: 1. Latitude of acceptance, 2. Latitude of rejection, and 3. Latitude of noncommitment. Contrast and boomerang effects what happen when messages fall within the latitude of rejection. If a message falls under the latitude of rejection, attitude change will be reduced or nonexistent (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017, pg.

58).” A strength of SJT is that it helps attitude change on where a person holds a position. An example of this each time someone in the Gang comes up with a bad idea, they someone convince the rest of them to join in. Furthermore, this theory does a good job in explaining the perception of messages that influence persuasion. An example of this how the Gang is able

to convince the waitress and Cricket (secondary characters) into doing things for them that end up in disaster for the two. Their social status declines after they get involved with the Gang.

A limitation of this theory is that it ignores message content. An example of this is the episode where Charlie uses his mom to act like she has cancer in order to make money for the bar. She does not approve of this idea at all but since his argument is strong she ends up going along with the idea, even though she feels really guilty about it.

Another limitation ignores the effects of source credibility, a factor that can change attitude. For example, Charlie likes to say he studied bird law and he is the expert on the law just to appear smart. Overall, standpoint theory and social judgment theory work very well together to explain how the Gang thinks because of past experiences and how they are able to change each other's attitudes. These two theories can be used as a way to help a person understand their personal perspective and what will cause them to change them.

We can see how the Gang has changed over the years and are more open minded but are still naïve. The Gang still has their own ways of thinking but that makes for an interesting TV series.