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Overall, I believe that my speech lacked enthusiasm, interesting content, and general preparedness. Looking back at my 6 to 8 hours spent researching about plastics in the oceans and my 1 hour spent rehearsing, I can see just by the time management that I might have spent not enough time rehearsing. As a result, my speech was not as extemporaneous as I wanted, and in a way, I sound somewhat robotic. Another mistake I made was that I misinterpreted “full sentence outline” into a fully typed out essay. In addition to not being well prepared, I was not personally interested in the topic of plastics in oceans, but I picked it anyways since it sounded like a safer topic than my alternative topic choice of PC building. As a result, I was not emotionally invested in the topic, which was reflected in my relatively monotone voice, my rather boring facial expressions, and my rather cliché introduction and conclusion which were not very creative or insightful at all. Although I would like to place the blame on the cold I had that day, I cannot deny that I didn’t truly care about plastics in oceans.

Most problematic was my content, which wasn’t really anything more than just an in depth analysis on the problem of plastics in the oceans. Instead of focusing on some more interesting piece of plastics in oceans, such as the solution to the plastics problem, I instead just dumped facts about the problem. Furthermore, I didn’t really make use of visuals or imagery to show rather than tell the audience just how massive a problem the plastics in the ocean are. What I wish I could have done was convert the number of tons of waste in the ocean to the equivalent amount of semi-trucks filled with bricks or something similar. I think an easy fix would have been to use a slide show like some of the other speakers to maybe show a statistical graph of plastics in the ocean and perhaps a picture of a turtle with a straw inside it.

I think I did well in researching my topic thoroughly. Even though I essentially had a full script in front of me, I was able to go off on tangents on the fly since I spent so much time studying the problem of plastics in the ocean. Furthermore, I think I did well in learning how to conduct research, learning the best sources for scientific journals and how to find relevant and recent information.