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Final Exam: Comm 101 Oral Rhetoric

Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbz2boNSeL0>

Or search Dananjaya Hettiarachchi World Champion of Public Speaking 2014 - Full Speech

1. What is the main purpose of this speech?

The main purpose of the speech is to give encouragement to those who may feel that they are broken or are lost in life. His main claim is that each person is special and that they have a gift and purpose in life, whether they know what it is.

2. What is the structure/organization of this speech?

The structure of the speech is chronological and sequential. Throughout the speech, he starts off speaking about how he started as a broke troublemaker who flunked high school, how his mom and his dad got him on his feet by having him working for an accountant, how he was inspired to go back to high school and attend college, and how in the end he found that he enjoyed speaking. He ties it all together by prefixing his life story with a symbolic demonstration of the rose and how just like a rose plucked of its petals people can be broken too. In the end he ties his life story to the rose story by showing that in the same way that his parents and friends directed him in life and in a way restored him, the rose was restored in the speech too.

3. What is the speaker’s best delivery element or strategy? Why?

In my opinion, the way he integrated clever humor throughout the speech was well done. His line, “I see something in you. I just don’t know what it is” is a funny line by his colleagues all while embodying the theme of the speech. The theme of the speech is that even though you are broken, even though you might not know where to start, there is something you have, whether that be a talent or purpose that you will eventually find. The line captivates this, saying that he knows each person is special and that they have something to contribute, even though he doesn’t know what that is.

4. How is evidence used in this speech?

His life story is essentially his evidence for his claim that each person has a gift, ability, and purpose in life even if they are not aware of it. Throughout his life, the speaker was unaware of what he really wanted to do. Instead, his employer Mr. Carter and others directed him to the right direction, first starting with getting an education and ending with realizing his gift and love for speaking. It is implied that if the speaker is able to have gone from a poor broke boy to an educated, fulfilled person, so can anyone else.

5. How does the speech conclude? What is your take away?

The speech concludes by stating that through the encouragement and help of friends and family, he was able to be transform from a person who was poor and didn’t know what he wanted to do to a person who has direction and purpose in life. My takeaway is that we all have problems and issues, and yet through the community, we can find a purpose and meaning in life.

Short Answer Questions: **Choose 10** of the following questions to answer. Please clearly number the questions for which you are writing responses. I am looking for short answer/a few sentences responses.

(Answered questions are bolded and highlighted and numbered)

1. Define oral rhetoric.

According to Shultze, “art of skillful public speaking”

2. What does it mean to be a faithful audience member?

It means listening to the speaker and being willing to have an open mind on what is discussed.

3. What are elements of delight in a speech of tribute?

Joy, patience

**4. What is speech apprehension? AND what have you done to overcome this phenomenon? (1)**

Speech apprehension is the fear of public speaking, and I have worked on breathing and focusing on my speech instead of my audience.

**5. What is informative value? (2)**

Basically how important and relevant is the information, and what value does it bring to the audience.

**6. What does it mean to be an ethical speaker? (3)**

To be an ethical speaker, one must refrain from thinking more importantly about oneself than the audience, one must be sure to accurately represent those they speak about (no quoting out of context), and plagiarism should never occur.

7. Persuasion is most often a 4-step process. What are those steps?

1. Making the audience aware of the problem

2. The audience then needs to understand the solutions to the problem

3. The audience needs to agree to parts of the speech

4. Convincing the audience to act do something about the problem

5. Explain how the problem and solution fit in directly with what the audience believes to be important.

8. In persuasion we approach our audience as having personal values and beliefs. Based on those values and beliefs, speakers attempt to influence what? What gets in our way?

9. What is the most important impact of well-cited research within the content of a speech?

10. What are appeals based on logos and pathos?

11. When/how should presentation aids be used by speakers?

12. What does it mean to embody your speech?

**13. Describe the most memorable speech of the semester, either your own or a classmate’s. What made it so memorable? (4)**

I really enjoyed this one person’s speech on the importance of listening. She rightly pointed out that there are those people in your lives who you just know are willing to listen to your problems and are able to give good advice because of it. It made me remember that I shouldn’t take for granted those that in my life that are skilled at listening and willing to listen.

14. What is the structure/organization of most speeches of persuasion?

**15. What is refutative design structure? (5)**

The refutative design structure is structured around an opposing view and the majority of the speech is spent laying down reasons why the opposing view is wrong.

16. As audience members, how do you make sure the speaker is “…cared for, protected, and appreciated for who they are…” (Schultze)?

Audience members can make sure that the speaker is “…cared for, protected, and appreciated for who they are…” by listening attentively, giving constructive criticism when appropriate and in between compliments of the speech, and by treating the speaker as how they would want to be treated when they speak. Classrooms are great for this, since the purpose of speaking is to learn and grow, not to be perfect at the get go.

**17. The thesis statement of any formal speech is described as a road map for the speech. What does that mean? (6)**

It means that the thesis statement should make it clear to the audience what the speech will be about, the order of the points made, and allow the audience to make sense of the overall purpose of the speech.

18. What does demonstration provide for both speaker and audience?

19. Describe voice as it pertains to delivery. What makes an effective voice?

To effectively use one’s voice, he or she should be aware of his or her comfortable range of pitch (make sure to speak in a way that is not too high or too low for your vocal cords), have a natural rhythm or rate of speaking that enhances the speech, and be able to project one’s voice so that the audience can hear it. One can always improve by focusing on changing throughout the speech their rhythm and their pitch, to make your audience more engaged. The last thing people want is a monotone delivery.

**20. When you must choose a topic and prepare for a speech, what should you consider first and foremost? (7)**

The topic should be something you are genuinely interested in.

**21. Why are introductions so critical to the overall success of a speech? What are the key elements in an introduction? (8)**

Introductions are critical, because they can determine whether the audience will decide to listen in or tune out. Each introduction to engage the audience must be interesting, demonstrate that you know what you are talking about, and should provide a rough “road map” of the speech.

22. You have been assigned an informative speech on The Mediterranean Diet. Briefly describe your preparation, speech structure and conclusion.

23. You have been assigned a persuasive speech on “Emotional Support Animals Should be Allowed on Commercial Airlines.” Briefly describe your preparation, speech structure and conclusion.

**24. Explain inductive and deductive reasoning techniques. (9)**

Inductive reasoning uses many different cases or examples to prove a more general conclusion or point. An example of this is concluding that all dogs have four legs since you see 5 different dogs each with four legs. On the other hand, deductive reasoning works in reverse of inductive reasoning. Deductive reasoning is used to explain a specific case by using some general rule or idea. An example would be saying that a dog you only see the head of has four legs since it is known that dogs have four legs.

**25. Using your experiences in this course, and perhaps those of you classmates, apply the statement “You learn to give speeches by giving speeches” to your semester’s work. (10)**

The best way I have learned how to give speeches is by learning through my mistakes, which I only could have made by giving speeches.

One of my first mistakes was picking a “safe” topic for the informative speech, even though I could care less about plastics in the oceans. I learned from then on that in a speech I can’t just go through the motions and give a speech about something that is foreign to me. Instead, I need a topic I am so interested in that I am willing to spend time and energy researching. When I applied what I learned from my ocean speech, my persuasion speech topic may have seemed a bit “unsafe,” or a bit weird. However, the topic of which chatting application is one I passionately hold an opinion on and care about.

Another lesson I learned was the importance of listening to other people’s speeches. Seeing how others do well or do poorly gives me a concrete understanding and grasp of what makes or breaks a speech. For example, someone had a really good speech where they were able to add in natural and extemporaneous humor. I also saw some speeches that were a bit robotic. As a result, I became convinced that speeches that are closer to being impromptu and farther away from being a “read-aloud” are more interesting to listen to. I worked on becoming more and more less robotic and more and more myself.