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**COM231-B220**

**Informative Speech Reflection**

Medgar Evers' Contribution to the Civil Rights Movement

Reflecting on my informative speech on Medgar Evers’ contribution to the Civil Rights Movement was a valuable experience that allowed me to grow as a public speaker. Through rehearsal and self-review, I gained insight into my areas needing improvement. I will discuss how I practiced my speech before delivering it, the two speaking concepts I demonstrated effectively, and two areas that require further development for future presentations.

I rehearsed primarily in front of my wife, who served as an initial audience and provided immediate feedback. Practicing with her in the room helped me cope with the pressure of speaking to others, which was important because I was nervous about the delivery. I also used flashcards, which helped me keep my key points organized and ensured I did not rely too much on reading from PowerPoint. This allowed me to glance at my notes occasionally while still engaging with my audience through eye contact and gestures. While practicing alone helps me memorize the content, practicing with someone else who can tell me about pacing or clarity, which I might have missed.

Two speaking concepts that I used from the book are eye contact and organization. According to the textbook, proper eye contact helps connect with the audience and maintain their interest throughout the speech. Organization was another concept I used in my speech. I followed a clear introduction, body, and conclusion format in my remarks, ensuring my message was clear. The transition between discussing Evers’ early activism and his role in ending segregation was smooth and easy to follow. Two specific areas where I can improve are my vocal delivery and my use of gestures and body language. My vocal delivery needed greater variety in volume and pace. While I made some hand gestures in my speech, these gestures often felt hesitant and infrequent.

In conclusion, my informative speech on Medgar Evers was a good learning experience that showed my strength and growth as a speaker. Practicing in front of my wife and using flashcards helped prepare me physically and mentally, providing me with valuable feedback. I maintain eye contact and organize my speech structure effectively. I am confident I can enhance my future speech, making it more engaging and impactful. This experience shows me the importance of preparing to improve my public speaking skills.