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**COM231-B220**

**Persuasive Speech: Reflection**

Are Protests Effective

When preparing for my persuasive speech on “Are Protests Effective?”, I dedicated time to physically practicing the delivery to ensure clarity and confidence in front of my audience. I practiced primarily by myself, standing in front of a mirror to observe my gestures, facial expressions, and overall body language. This method allowed me to become more aware of my physical presence and how my audience might perceive it during the speech. Although I didn’t practice formally in front of others before the actual presentation, I rehearsed multiple times to internalize the flow and key points since the speech was delivered in person and not recorded.

Two speaking concepts from the textbook and the speech rubric that I performed well during my speech include maintaining effective eye contact and using clear and persuasive language. I consistently made eye contact with the members of the audience throughout the speech, which helped establish a connection and convey confidence. This engagement was critical in persuading my listeners about the effectiveness of protests, as it demonstrated sincerity and conviction. Additionally, my language was direct and purposeful, utilizing strong arguments and persuasive techniques such as storytelling and evidence to support my stance clearly and compellingly.

After watching my speech and reflecting on the experience, I identified two areas for improvement. First, my use of speech aids, specifically flashcards, could be strengthened. While I avoided reading from notes excessively, I did not bring in or use flashcards, which at times made it harder to navigate between points, causing brief moments of hesitation. Incorporating well-prepared flashcards next time would allow me to maintain flow without sacrificing eye contact or interrupting the speech’s rhythm. Secondly, I noticed that my gestures, while natural, could be more purposeful and varied to emphasize key ideas. At specific points, my hands remained static, which lessened the dynamism of my delivery. Using deliberate, controlled gestures will help me emphasize the arguments and keep the audience visually engaged in future speeches.

In conclusion, delivering a persuasive speech on protests allowed me to practice maintaining intense eye contact and using compelling language effectively. However, I recognized the need to improve my use of supportive materials, such as flashcards, and to incorporate more expressive gestures. In the future, these adjustments will help me become a more confident and compelling speaker, able to engage and persuade my audience even more effectively.