CS461: Fall Demo Activities

Oliver Zhou

Write for Accessibility and ESL

Reading through the articles about what makes content accessible and readable gave me a few ideas of what it means. Readable content is simple and easy to understand, written at a level of appropriate difficulty. It includes language that is commonly understood and avoids confusing or niche words that ESL people may not understand. Additionally, readable or accessible content has multiple ways of showing off text, whether it be alternate texts for media, labels, or captions and transcripts for visual media/videos.

I plan to adapt our web page to be usable for all students and teachers. This aspect is especially crucial in our project because student backgrounds as well as teacher backgrounds are incredibly diverse, especially in the university setting where people come from all over the world. I want to ensure that accessibility options such as varied text sizes and different readable fonts or backgrounds are provided, so people can choose a reading experience that works for them. Additionally, I want to ensure that we follow guidelines provided by the readability links that I looked through in the activity. We will check with them often to make sure that our language is not ableist either. Any possible additional feature we could add to support other languages would be nice if it's possible.

Trent Matsumura

Conquer your Fear of Public Speaking:
- Be prepared
- Eye Contact
- Avoid filler words
- Know your audience
- Practice
- Breathe and don't speed up too much

These are some basic parts that make public speaking easier and can relieve some anxiety about giving speeches. I plan to incorporate all these tips into the live speaking demonstration. Being prepared and knowing the audience will largely shape my speech and how I intend to prepare slides and how I speak to the audience. The rest are mainly based on practicing giving the speech to either friends or family to prepare. After making sure I can run through the speech easily, but not completely memorized, I will be prepared to give a speech.

Collin Kimball

Learn from TED Presentation Advice

[How to Give a Killer Presentation](#)

In this article, Chris Anderson highlights the key factors into giving a good presentation. He starts by emphasizing the importance of framing the story to create a clear narrative rather than overwhelming the audience with excessive data or details. Additionally, he covers the importance of planning your delivery. He suggests that memorizing your speech allows for a more authentic connection with the audience. If time is limited, he recommends using bullet points to outline your key points instead. He cautions against reading directly from a script, as it can weaken your connection with the audience. Furthermore, Anderson discusses the importance of stage presence and the effective use of multimedia. He highlights that confident body language and purposeful movements can engage the audience and reinforce your message. He also emphasizes how utilizing visuals or multimedia can make complex ideas more accessible and memorable when used strategically, without overshadowing the speaker's narrative.

What I will apply:
- Structure the demo around a clear narrative that highlights the problem, the solution provided by our software, and its overall impact, avoiding excessive technical details.
- Incorporate demonstrations to simplify complex ideas and make the presentation more engaging.
- Memorize key parts of the demo for authenticity, using bullet points as a guide while avoiding reliance on a script.

Ethan Lu

Communication Activities

Conquer your Fear of Public Speaking:

1. Be Prepared
2. Be Real
3. Be Vulnerable
4. Be Present
5. Be Generous

1. Making checklists and running dry-runs are key steps to being prepared for a live demo. Essentially, try to practice consistently so you are comfortable giving your demonstration, but also practice with friends who might ask you realistic questions. Having people who don't know your project ask questions about it can help with your checklist as well.

2. Being realistic about your fears can help you to relax for a live demonstration. For instance, creating a list of your fears, along with the possible outcomes, can help calm yourself.

3. Make sure that you are vulnerable with your audience. Your audience will connect better with you if they feel you are being vulnerable and honest with them, which can make them more sympathetic towards your presentation.

4. Try to take a deep breath and face the audience. Don't allow your mind to wander and mentally journey elsewhere, as your audience can tell if you are not emotionally present.

5. Have faith in what you are presenting and treat it as though you are being generous with your audience. If you believe in what you are saying, it will come across in your presentation.

Sairishabh Anand

Learn from Patrick Winston
Individual Activity

"Your success in life will be determined largely by your ability to speak, your ability to write, and the quality of your ideas. In that order." — Patrick Henry Winston

Watch 🎥 How to Speak from late AI researcher Patrick Winston. Write a brief summary of what you learned and what you will apply to your presentation.

In the video "How to Speak" by Patrick Winston, he emphasizes the importance of effective communication in achieving success, especially in fields like engineering and technology. Winston breaks down speaking into three key components: clarity, structure, and engagement. He argues that clarity is crucial, as speakers must ensure their ideas are easily understood by their audience. This involves using simple, direct language, avoiding unnecessary jargon, and straightforwardly presenting concepts. The structure is equally important; Winston advises that ideas should be organized logically, with a clear progression from one point to the next. He suggests that a strong opening should immediately engage the audience and set the stage, while the body of the presentation should systematically address the main points.

Additionally, Winston stresses the need for engagement throughout the presentation. He highlights the importance of making the content relatable and keeping the audience's attention by speaking confidently, enthusiastically, and clearly focusing on the listener's perspective. From his insights, I learned how crucial it is to capture the audience's interest from the start, maintain a logical flow of ideas, and conclude with a strong, memorable closing. I plan to apply this approach to my presentations by organizing my thoughts, engaging my audience right from the beginning, and delivering my ideas with confidence and clarity.

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