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COMS 4, Section 39

Demonstration Speech Self-Evaluation

My First Speech

The topic of my demonstration speech was on kakeibo, a Japanese money-saving method. I went with this topic because I wanted to talk about a skill that people can use and benefit from. It involved using a notebook to keep track of one's expenses and asking yourself four questions in the process: How much money do you have? How much money do you want to save? How much are you spending? And finally, how can you improve upon your spending habits? When it came to presenting, I felt a bit of speech fright in that I tried not to forget what I would say. In the past, I have had presentations where the lines I had memorized just completely flew out of my head due to nervousness. In this one, I did a bit of a better job, but even then I felt like I may have skipped a sentence or two. My body language may have been a bit awkward. I avoided using hand gestures as much as I could as I felt they did not suit my natural personality nor the "tone" I was trying to create. I am also physically incapable of eye contact, so I have a tendency not to look at people when communicating with them. That's not to say I can't or won't look at people, but it actually irritates my eyes. I have tried to make eye contact before, but everytime I do, it feels like someone points a laser at my eyes. I don't know why that is or if it even is a medical condition. The presentation was fine, overall,

One thing that I believe went well was the content of my speech. The content was simple enough to follow and talk about. I even supplemented the content I was talking about with a visual aid. Another thing that went well was organization. The subject I chose to present on was such that

I was able to present in a reasonable order. I easily came up with an order of what to say and was able to follow it well. I just had to first tell the audience what they needed and then what four questions they had to ask themselves in order. I didn't have to worry too much about arguments as it was a demonstrative speech, as well as supporting information and evidence. The delivery of the speech was another thing that I did well in that I was able to get everything I needed to talk about out there. I did well in making sure that I wasn't going too fast or too slow when presenting to meet the 5-minute limit.

One area that I believe I would like to improve in is in transitions in that I feel that I can make better shifts in discussion from one topic to another. I would like to do so in a way that doesn't bore my audience. I felt like I just went through the points with no interest involved. I can try to improve upon this by spending more time planning out my speech and practicing more beforehand. I can easily arrange for this by changing the order in which I do my coursework for all my classes. I have already made it so that I no longer have to do my CSC 130 work on weekends. My non-verbal behavior could also use a bit of improvement. Apart from needing to look at the camera, I should try not to be too twitchy or fidgety in my movement when presenting. This can be helped with a little more rehearsal beforehand. I can get more rehearsal by trying to practice the speech once every night. The last thing I would need to improve on is my attention getter and the clincher at the end of my speech. Again, this is just a few of those tiny details that could make my speech more effective in practice. I would need to try to get feedback from others for this. I can do this by holding a demo speech before doing my real one. I have redone my speech before, so I don't believe that getting a sample audience to come to listen to me before I officially present will be difficult.

Overall, I felt good about my speech. I acknowledge that it may not have been perfect, but that only means that I can improve. I try not to let imperfections bother me. Instead, I tell myself that I just don't understand things 'yet' or that I haven't mastered the skill 'yet'. I find it more motivating and reasonable to understand that just because things don't go well now, it doesn't mean that we can't improve or change them at all. It's a difficult but powerful mindset to obtain. If I had allowed my mistakes to get the best of me, I wouldn't be writing this evaluation right now, would I? In summary, I got the process down, I just need to work on the kinks that could help engage my audience more.