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COMS 4, Section 39

Persuasive Speech Self-Evaluation

My Last Speech

The topic of my persuasive speech was about cyberbullying. This was a topic that I originally chose for my informative speech but had to discard due to the nature of the topic being difficult to be informative on. I then decided to use this topic when it came to planning out my persuasive speech as I knew this topic would be easy to be persuasive about. The good news was that because cyberbullying was a failed topic that I had worked on, I already had most of the work laid out for me when it came to planning my persuasive speech. I just had to make a few changes on the outline and just like that, I had my persuasive speech going. In the speech, I started off in typical fashion, having my introduction be based on the outline. Also, when it came to visual aids, I wanted to make sure I met the mediums requirement, so I had asked a friend for a screen that I could borrow for my presentation and used that. In my speech, I went over things like factors that would encourage cyberbullying or factors that would make one more susceptible to being cyberbullied. I talked about how people of certain weights, races, backgrounds tend to be more vulnerable. I also talked about the methods used, like sexting, rumor spreading, and death threats. I then went into negative impacts, which could be health related, related to one’s social life, or even related to one’s academic performance. Finally, I covered prevention and coping methods before going into my conclusion. Overall, I felt really good about the speech even though I knew I could have done better.

The first thing that I believe went well regarding my speech was the use of visual aids as supporting information. Apart from quoting my sources in my speech, I made sure to have three different visual aids of two different mediums. In my last speech, I failed to consider what mediums were and so I decided to make up for it in this speech. To complete the mediums requirement, I decided to borrow a screen from one of my friends but made sure not to let the screen “take over" my presentation. The next thing that I believe went well was my delivery of the persuasive speech. Prior to my official presentation, I actually did manage to get a decent amount of practice time beforehand. This is especially so when you consider the amount of practice time I had in my previous two major speeches. The time I had spent with rehearsals really helped me memorize my lines and get my timing right. It also helped me avoid stuttering and using filler words. Finally, the last thing that I believe went well was the content I had in my speech. In my speech, my purpose was to persuade and so I did so by doing a few things. I went over factors that encourage cyberbullying, the methods used in cyberbullying, what the negative impacts of cyberbullying are, as well as prevention and coping methods. All of the points that I had brought up prior could be considered content that is completely relevant to the topic of my speech and helped serve my purpose of persuasion in the speech as well.

One area that I would like to improve in for my future speeches is to be a little more conscientious and aware of the little details. For instance, in this speech I completely forgot about my credibility statement. While I did manage to play it off and perform my speech like nothing happened, it was still one of those things that prevent me from reaching perfection. Really, I just need to pay more attention to details and ask more questions in the future. Another area that I would like to improve in for the future is body language and eye contact. Again, this is one of those things that I still find myself struggling with. I still had a hard time looking at my audience and still don’t know what type of body language is natural or how to show proper body language. While practice can help, I see this as more of a self-esteem type of issue that I may have to work on. Finally, the last area that I believe that I will have to work on is preparation. For this speech, I had to cancel my presentation once due to audio issues that I did not anticipate I would have. Perhaps if I had tested my equipment beforehand, I would have been able to resolve the issue and not have to cancel my speech. This is something that I will have to keep in mind for my future speeches. Should I ever have another speech, it would be best to make sure that everything is in working order beforehand so that I don’t end up with any unexpected issues.

Overall, I would say that this speech went rather well. I did mess up with the credibility statement, but that is on me for letting myself become careless. I did well on learning from my mistakes in past, like the thirty-second time window that I failed to meet in my informative speech, or the lack of using visual aids of different mediums. The process of finding time to rehearse became much easier as I managed to rehearse once every afternoon until my official speech date. That just about sums everything up. I look forward to my future presentations and using everything I have learned to my advantage.