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Assignment A

While in a rabbit hole of TED talks, I stumbled upon two short videos that were fitting in accordance with our “under 5-minute” requirements. Both speeches were on comparable topics but were given by two vastly different people. The first video presents a younger speaker by the likes of Brendan Clarke sharing his personal experience of self-motivation. From the beginning, it is evident that Brendan has prepared for his speech but is still novice in his experience. He has particularly good hand gestures for a young man but does not move any other part of his body the entire speech.

The second video is presented by an older success expert names Richard St. John. Richard is more active with his hands and body than Brendan, an indicator of his comfort in front of an audience. Mr. St. John’s expressions are also more prominent than Brendan’s with matching voice levels and inflection at the perfect times. He raises his voice when something is funny, and the audience is drawn in.

Mr. St. John indicates at the beginning of the video that he condensed a two-hour class into his 3-minute speech, and it clearly shows. It is well thought out and perfectly timed. Brendan's speech has good timing, he is quick to the point, but he starts to ramble early on, and his speech gets a little off track and confusing, potentially losing some members in the audience before getting back on track. Brendan also uses a bit of voice inflection but there are several opportunities where more voice inflection would truly sell the crowd, specifically in points of humor. Brendan could have gotten the crowd laughing and really into his speech like Richard did.

Both speakers had good eye contact given the circumstances, but it is noted that Brendan is staring into one spot the entire time. When Richard makes eye contact it is with different people in the audience every time giving the members a sense of inclusion, drawing them more into the story he is telling. Overall, both speakers were highly effective, convincingly delivering their message in an effective and efficient manner.

**References**

*1.) Self Motivation | Brendan Clark | TEDxYouth@BarnstableHS - YouTube*. (n.d.). Www.youtube.com. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLXcLBfDwvE>

*2.)* TED. (2007). Secrets of success in 8 words, 3 minutes | Richard St. John. In *YouTube*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6bbMQXQ180