**Participation Essay**

I am glad that I took this section of SPCH 102 because I feel I have learned a lot about speech through observing and experiencing my classmates- as well as my own- improvements. I remember back to the first day of the semester, the uncomfortable feeling of the new and unfamiliar classroom. I didn’t know anyone in the class and was nervous, especially because I knew I would be at some point in the near future speaking in front of them. I didn’t realize it would be so soon either Ms. Dee, might I add. I remember the closeness of a few of the small huddles in the class; Aiden, Sam, and Filip: Bri and Katrina. I had no idea I would have the joy of being a part of a friendship with them, as well as the rest of the class. I really feel like we’ve grown closer as a class and as a larger friend circle. There has been some hard topics covered in the class and I feel we have handled them respectfully and kindly to, and amongst, one another.

Growing upon this, because I have been able to be so comfortable with my classmates and within this classroom setting, I have really been able to make improvements with my anxiety in getting in front of groups of people as well as my speech delivery as a whole. I have been able to, without fear of judgment, let my creativity flow in the games we’ve played. A highlight being my unique meaning for a spinach correlating to being misunderstood and got the extra credit point for my group! (10/10/2017)

I also loved coming at 9:30 because it was the perfect time for first-class! I had the opportunity to prepare a bit before speech days if necessary or sleep in a little compared to all the other days of the week having 9AM’s! This helped me to achieve perfect attendance this semester and confidently being able to say I have come completely prepared having read class material for at least 90% of class meeting times. I also tried, Even if I hadn’t extensively read class material, tried to contribute to discussion where I had prior knowledge or felt I could adequately.

Because I have had some experience with speech instruction in the past, I was happy to use this class as an opportunity to take specific notice to the progress of my peers, specifically Marissa. I was able to grow quite close to Marissa this semester; we will even be taking Interpersonal Communications together next semester. I analyzed her speeches for both of my peer analysis papers and have paid close attention to her speeches. I have seen so much growth in her confidence, delivery, and speech writing over the course of the semester. So much so, that I truly think it has helped me with my own confidence and speech writing. In critiquing her speeches, I was able to improve my own in those aspects as well. You can see through the progression in my speech scores, I was able to better understand what was being asked for and execute speeches with obvious improvement.

I feel strongly that based on my improvement in my confidence, delivery, and ability to give feedback, in combination with my perfect attendance and consistency in classroom participation, I have earned an A in this course.