COMMEMORATIVE SPEECH EVALUATION FORM

Speaker – Marissa

Topic – Commemorative Speech for her Father

Evaluator – Bryn Loftness

Criteria

*Preparation* **5** */5*

Manuscript

Outline format/submitted

*Introduction****9*** */10*

Attention Getter

Credibility

Thesis Statement

Perfect! Pauses and emphasizing was used powerfully and memorably.

Preview

Transition

*Body****28*** */30*

Could have been defined better, but still adequate

Clear main points

Transitions (internal review/preview)

Organization Clarity

Great structure and organization. Clearly very intentional sequencing of points and claims.

*Conclusion****10*** */10*

Transition to conclusion

Reinforce main points

Effective concluding statement

Some but could have a lot more, would be more effective/convincing for emotional claims/parts (ie. My dad has always been my hero)

*Delivery****18*** */20*

Eye Contact

Effective Vocal Elements

Language

Posture & Foot Positioning (was very distracting)

Nonverbal Elements

Visual Aid

Time 3:12 Missed Speech Days 0 Total **70** /75

Bryn Loftness

9/19/2017

Commemorative Speech Critique Essay for Marissa

In Marissa’s commemorative speech about her father, she started very strongly with a unique and intriguing attention getter by not referencing her father specifically right off the bat. She beat around the bush a bit, keeping the listeners wanting to hear more. It was also full of emotion but still sounded casual and was easy enough to follow. Her tone was soft and genuine, which the audience could definitely feel. She connected with the audience, helped them relate to her. Her point about “waddling back into the house with your hands full of groceries,” (Miller) was so easy to see and feel right there with her. From the beginning she familiarizes the audience with her father, “As a young trouble maker from Arkansas, my dad was a very free spirit and …” (Miller). She goes on to tell us a brief background and gives us a solid basis to understand the familial situation which only further helps us connect to the speech.

Her thesis/topic was defined and her points were briefly stated in her transition. They could have been better defined and more obviously pointed out to help the reader capture that they were, in fact, her main claims rather than just points. In her conclusion, she did very well pulling these points together. She reiterates them plainly but not repetitively, “He has taught be strong, mentally, physically, and emotionally. My dad taught me to work hard and how to handle all of the obstacles that life throws my way”…”my dad is definitely my hero.” (Miller)

Sign points were present but not in the slightest bit extenuated within her speech; they definitely could have been used more diversely, by selecting a wider range of transitional words/phrases, and also more effectively, by verbally enunciating them more. They led to following points but weren’t necessarily obvious guides. Her points were, however, very thoroughly described and supported. The use of the word “conclusively” (Miller) near the end was a bit distracting, and did not flow well. However, overall her sign points, or lack thereof, did not seriously affect the actual content too much.

Marissa did not need to use citations, however she did use several direct quotes from her Dad throughout her speech. All were cited accurately and clearly, with no question as to who originally said the quote. The use of these quotes helped make the speech more personal and relatable. She, for one of her points, tells a story of his diligence within the military and closes it off with “he always tells me that hard work will be worth it in the end.” (Miller) The use of the quote here ties off the story and pulls back the audience, giving us closure as well as insight to how he viewed it just by the quote she included.

In regards to Marissa’s delivery, she did well with pausing between points as well as enunciating. She could have improved by projecting a bit more, fluctuating her voice to be more expressive. It seemed as though she was less expressive in this speech than she usually is in conversation. She was also moving around her feet, not keeping upright posture, as well as clenching and unclenching her hands/fists on the podium. It distracted from what she was saying and interrupted several key parts of the speech, in my perspective. These could be easy improvements that would really benefit her overall delivery. The content was great, now all she needs is more confidence in her delivery.

References

Miller, Marissa. *Commemorative Speech for My Father*. SPCH 102.

Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO. 12 Sept. 2017.

Loftness, B (2017). *Notes for a Commemorative Speech of Marissa Miller’s Dad*. SPCH 102. Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO. 12 Sept. 2017.