ME 475 Presentation Evaluation

Christopher White

While watching my ME 475 Presentation video, I noticed many issues with my performance as a speaker. I felt that I was not an effective speaker due to the delivery, presentation, visual aids, technical competence, and teamwork.

In regards to my delivery, I could tell that I was very nervous when speaking to a large audience. While my voice loud, it was not very clear because I spent a majority of my eye contact focused on the projector screen rather than the audience. I was unable to avoid distracting gestures and verbal tics, since my body was moving around and I was stuck on a few sentences. I also did not use the appropriate scientific language when discussing the components and experimental results.

Overall I believe that the presentation was organized in a logical order. While I felt that it lacked the technical depth of other presentations, I felt that it had a strong introduction and motivation for the project. I primarily spoke during the body section, focusing on the characterization of components as well as issues surrounding the testing of these components. I did not go into a lot of detail about the physical aspects of the components, however I think that more detail would have helped the audience understand the reasoning for why these components were used on the quadcopter.

Visual aids were used in the presentation, however they were not used effectively or in a professional nature. Some of the pictures I used in my slides gave a great overview of the components, testing setups and analysis. The one exception was a diagram of the incorrect motor. I will need to make sure that I have clear and correct diagrams in future presentations.

In terms of my technical competence, I feel that this was one of the areas where I was most unprepared. I feel that I did not thoroughly explain the components using technical detail that was appropriate for the audience. While my group did explain the details of the analysis methods, I felt that I was unable to pinpoint the major technical issues.

The entire team worked fairly well in terms of division of labor. Each member shared a specific section of the entire presentation and spoke for approximately the same duration. Transitions between speakers were not very smooth or clear.

In terms of improvement, I feel that I need to spend more time organizing and structuring the layout of my presentation part before designing slides. I need to consider my audience so that I am addressing them appropriately with information that they can understand. I need to practice the presentation and familiarize myself more with the information I will be presenting on in front of my fellow group members. I need to focus on being aware of my involuntary body language as well as speaking towards the audience rather than focusing on the projector screen.