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Watching a Speech: Anne Hathaway

There are a lot of things you take into consideration while watching or giving a speech. I recently watched a speech given by Anne Hathaway. Her speech was about paid parental leave for all men and women. She addressed the United Nations about the importance of a paid parental leave, not just maternity leave. She also stressed the importance of a paid leave and not just the unpaid weeks only mothers are unable to take off work. It was very engaging. Firstly, we will first discuss what went well. Then we will look at what we can approve on. Lastly, we will look at what I would have done differently. Every opportunity is a learning opportunity. We can use Anne’s Hathaway explain to help us with our own deliverance.

Firstly, I would like to talk about what went well. Anne had a very engaging voice. She was clear and crisp and showed the right amount of emotion. You could defiantly tell this is a topic she is very passionate about. Anne knew her audience by making sure she addressed everyone in the room. When you are listening to a speech you tend to drift when a person gets off topic. She stayed on topic and didn’t drift. The last think I really enjoyed about her speech is she made it personal. She showed how the topic she was discussing and how it effected herself and how it affected everyone else in the room. It’s easier to keep your audience engaged if you can relate to the speaker and you know the speaker relates to the topic.

Next we will discuss what could have gone better. She did stare down at her notes quite a bit. She would look up and try to make eye contact with her audience, but I felt like she spends more time in her notes, especially at the beginning, than looking at her audience. She also kept her focus more toward the left. She would look down at the notes then look straight ahead, then turn to the left. From the angles of the camera it did look like she had some audience to the left, but she rarely looked at them. She did stumble on her words and lose her place a few times. When giving a speech that can happen to anyone at any time, but possibly a little more practice could have prevented it.

Lastly, If I had been giving the speech what would I do differently? She starts the speech of with a memory of her parents when she was younger growing up, than transitions to her experience as a parent. I may have done it opposite. Start off when I became a new mother and use that as a reflection onto my past experiences with my own parents. Mostly because when we give life we tend to look back at our own childhoods. She then starts discussing the statics of women and fathers who get time off in the united states and the statistics on that. She then goes into a company who offers paid parental and the statics of how the company improved when they implemented a paid parental leave policy. I may have started with that. It could be easier for people to see the benefits of implementing such policies, how it impacted the company and the employees before seeing the statics on families who don’t get that option.

Overall, I thought her speech was great. When my sisters and I were little, we used to love watching commercials. We would critique them based off how interested we were by the commercial. We also judged it by if the commercial made us want to go out and by the product, they were advertising. A speech really isn’t different from that. You want to keep your audience engaged. You want your audience to be just as passionate as you are about the topic you are speaking about. In a way you are trying to sell them into our topic. Anne did that with me, and I hope to be able to that with my audience.

Works Cited

English Speeches. Anne Hathaway “Paid Family Leave (English Subtitles)” *YouTube,* 22 Feb. 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkr57P0fwbI.