Evaluations:

Sunday:

The presentation given by Farah Al Bahtimy, started out with “I will talk about..” which did not catch the audience’s attention however she did relate the topic to the audience and started her thesis statement. In her introduction she stated she will talk about what is stress, causes of stress, symptoms and how to deal with stress. She describes her topic well and her voice is loud and clear. However at times she does go a bit too fast. She had some eye contact but she looked at the ceiling and window throughout the speech. That was kind of distracting as well as her moving around. I can see that she was trying to control her movements because she kept a limited space where she would walk. Her presentation did grab my attention because I do want to learn how to manage stress but for the people who weren’t interested, she did grab attention by telling a personal story about her experience with stress which helped the audience trust what she is saying as well. Her visual aids were pleasant to look at, easy to follow, and was not distracting. My only complaint was the words could be a little bigger to help read clearly. I like that she did not use notecards: it showed she knew what she was saying but I think it let her forget to keep the speech formal. She used informal language such as “you’re gonna” “obviously” “actually”. At the end she summarized the speech well and restates what she said in the introduction but what caught me off-guard was that her last sentence was “I’m done”. Overall I liked her speech because everyone gets stressed especially when the audience are all students.

Tuesday:

When Sara started her presentation about human trafficking, she didn’t specify her thesis statement, instead she opted to using quotes for introducing her topic. It allowed for good attention grabbing; however, it left me confused about what she will tell us. Later on I figured that she was going to talk about the sexual exploitation, prostitution and labor exploitation parts of human trafficking. Her exact focus was unclear at first. I personally resonated with her presentation, since most victims of human trafficking are woman and children. Hearing her talk about the forced prostitution, sexual exploitation and labor exploitation kept me captivated, as well as deeply concerned. Another thing that stuck with me were the three P’s (provider, promise and protector). Moving on to her presenting skills, she spoke loud and clearly without stopping while maintaining solid eye contact. She also had no trouble explaining her information and used different techniques. I particularly enjoyed her visual aids; they were important for her presentation and straight to the point. Her conclusion was also solid, she summarized her topic well at the end. Finally, Sara did a good job raising awareness and conveying the severity of this issue, it reminded me of how important it is and that it should be taken seriously. I also enjoyed that she mentioned that if we notice someone that is intertwined in human trafficking, how to approach them and she also mentions phone numbers we can call in case this happens.

Thursday:

On this day the presenter failed to put her name on the presentation. Her topic was about Memory and the types of memory, short term, long term, etc. When she began talking about short term memory, she had some eye contact with the class; however, she did rely heavily on her slides during presenting. Instead of using note cards she was reading directly from her slides, this made her seem like she was unsure with her work. Nevertheless, her introduction was enjoyable. Part of what made it enjoyable was the usage of visual aspects, it kept her presentation from getting stale, however some of her slides consisted of a plain white background with black text. An aspect that was well explained was the acoustic memory. Generally, her presentation was actually very informative, it’s something that I could implement in my own life. My only major distraction is that she was walking in a circle while reading from the slides and that made me focus more on the presentation than what she was saying. This could have been avoided if she had bullet points on her notecards in order for her to focus more on the audience. Finally, her summary helped bring everything together and concluded the speech well.

Sunday:

In Ahmed’s (he did not put his name on the presentation) speech he talks about three historical places in Afghanistan, which include: Buddha Niches, Minaret of Jam and the Friday Mosque. He introduced his topic well and he had a good thesis statement. He mentioned that what comes to mind when people hear about Afghanistan they think about war, not about the beauty of it. During his presentation he kept rocking back and forth which was a little bit distracting. During the speech I wasn’t able to clearly understand him, but overall I felt like he really did enjoy talking about his country and how proud he is of it. I wish he had some notecards just so he can focus more on the audience than on the slides. I particularly liked it when he proved Donald Trump wrong, by stating his quote and then showing the beauty of the country and its historical places. When it came to the visuals, he did choose nice pictures of the places. The actual presentation was little bit plain but that also means that they weren’t distracting, nor did they take away from his presentation. Another talking point that I enjoyed was when he mentioned the beauty of the ruins. There is a serene aspect of looking at the ruins of past civilizations, it shows the passage of time and how after destruction, there is always creation. In the end I noticed that his presentation bent towards being more persuasive at the end rather than an informative presentation. Especially when he said “I hope this changes your mentality…”