

Federico Tafur

COMM 2004

Queensberry

Unit 6 Activity: Self-Reflection Essay Navigating the Waves
of Virtual Public Speaking

Reflecting on my personal experience in Virtual Public Speaking with a professional focus in the class, I am confronted with many thoughts and emotions. This short semester journey, which has been both challenging and rewarding, pushed me over the line of comfort; this made me confront my speaking apprehension and adapt to the unique dynamics of online communication. Throughout this essay, I will evaluate the evolution of my skills, the impact of my confidence in public speaking, and the overall effectiveness of the virtual format of the public speaking class.

At the beginning of the semester, my apprehension towards public speaking could have been more assertive and effective. I had uncertainties about my ability and ease of engaging with audiences effectively. My expectations were a blend of anticipation and anxiety, fueled by the prospect of navigating new technologies such as Canvas, Podcasts, and Zoom. Despite these uncertainties I endured over my public speaking skills, I recognized the importance of improving my public speaking skills in a professional context; for this reason, I decided to enroll during the winter semester of 2023-2024 in the COMM 2004 Public Speaking Class.

As I started, I witnessed a significant shift in my public speaking apprehension. Thanks to the well-thought-out structure of the class, I noticed an increase in my confidence

in public speaking, helping me feel more adept at delivering and preparing speeches, with new assurance of delivering and articulating my ideas efficiently. More importantly, in a world where technology has connected the world, the format of this class, through a virtual platform, has allowed me to improve my digital communication skills, which may come to be imperative to master in the near future.

More importantly, navigating through the Canvas, participating in podcasts in class, and constantly engaging in Zoom sessions have become natural thanks to this class. Initially perceived as hurdles to some degree, these technologies have transformed into valuable tools for effective communication. The virtual nature of this class, while different from the traditional in-person format of communication, helped me equip myself personally on a professional level.

Every speech conducted throughout the class, and as I reflected on the feedback my classmates and professor received, helped me recognize the areas where I mastered the art of speech development. However, although I noticed a significant improvement in my public speaking skills, I acknowledge the importance of continuous refinement, particularly in structuring arguments and enhancing evidence along with rhetorical techniques. More importantly, it was essential to integrate the insights from course reading into my speeches for the learning curve. However, I see the potential for further improvement in weaving academic knowledge into my presentations.

Looking into the future and the essential skills I have gained through this class, I envision myself leveraging the skills acquired in public speaking in academic and professional aspects, such as my soccer commitment as a team captain. The ability to

articulate ideas persuasively is an essential skill that transcends the boundaries of any classroom. For this reason, I am fully committed to improving and continuously expanding my public speaking skills, recognizing them as essential tools for personal and professional growth in today's world.

In conclusion, public speaking with a professional focus class has been fundamental in transferring my initial knowledge and experience into a new, reformed, unrecognizable confidence in public speaking. Although fast but challenging, the journey was highly enriching, equipping me with knowledge of navigating virtual platforms and crafting impactful speeches more easily. As I intend to continue improving my personal skills in public speaking, I am entirely confident these skills and newly acquired knowledge will serve as a cornerstone in my academic and professional endeavors. This class has undoubtedly been a prosperous and enjoyable journey, which has helped me propel myself into articulating my ideas to others with persuasion and more assertion.