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MCC-UE 1805 – Public Speaking

Informative Speech Self Evaluation

1. What was my purpose?

My purpose was to introduce my audience to the novel *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin. The book, considered by some to be the best science fiction novel and by others the worst science fiction novel is a multifaceted commentary both on the inequities of society’s binary gender system. I wanted to do so by putting the novel in context by introducing its author, then summarizing its plot, then finally discussing its various themes.

2. Was it accomplished?

I think that I did accomplish my goal. The book is very long and very complex, however, I believe that I did do a good job explaining at least the majority of its implied subtext. I just wanted to give an overview of the book and I provided at least a broad demonstration of its various themes and how they contribute to the novel’s range of criticisms and praise.

3. What do I need to improve on, what were my weaknesses?

I think I was a little too biased with my analysis of the novel. I focused a little more on the novel’s praises and not the counterargument. While I planned to delve in deeper to the controversies surrounding the novel, I was running out of time and was not able to thoroughly present the analysis of the novel’s themes. Like my previous speech, I think I bit off more than I could chew in this speech.

4. What were the strengths of my presentation?

I believe the strengths of my presentation were my visuals (the PowerPoint) and my approach to the topic. My slides did not have too much text and its images were clear, clean, and related to the content on the slides. I also provided quotes from both the novel and various sources to augment my own words and free myself from having to verbally repeat them. My approach was “multi-pronged,” rather than just focus on the plot solely, I also focused on the author and the themes, arguably the more “deep” parts of the novel.