General Education Reflection

At Iowa State we are required to take several general education courses, including an international perspective course and a US diversity course. I have not yet fulfilled these requirements, so it is difficult for me to reflect upon this experience – but I have taken several other general education courses at ISU. Among these courses, two stood out as being particularly beneficial – my Speech Communication courses.

Because I hope to one day be a leader in software engineering these speech courses helped me become a stronger speaker, and a better professional. I would love to one day present a TED talk, and a prerequisite to this honor is the ability to communicate clearly. My speech communications courses gave me the practice I need to being to hone this skill.

In addition to gaining speaking experience from these classes, I was able to apply what I learned in these classes to engineering problem solving. Because I was taking these classes with many students who are not engineers, I was further exposed to a different ways of thinking and communicating. This is important, because many engineers quickly become isolated and are not able to take on the frame of mind that their customers may have.

All in all, I believe that my general education classes have prepared me to be a stronger engineer, and a better professional. I hope to use what I learned to better grasp the worldview of a non-engineer, so that I can find new problems to solve. Then, once I solved these problems with a team of people from various backgrounds, I can make the world a better place, and finally give that TED talk.