**Blog #2**

The second presentation is coming up. Thankfully, I go on the last day this time. Even with this extra procrastination time, I need to apply lessons learned in the first presentation to make sure that I execute better. What plan of action will I employ for this interactive demonstration?

**Presentation Topics**

The most important point to hit is what process I will be demonstrating. I have a few ideas in mind. Here they are ranked from most desirable to least desirable for me to present on.

1. How to efficiently dice an onion
2. Using the Tap Strap
3. How to give a good hug

Demonstrating how to efficiently dice an onion is the one I would most like to demonstrate. This is because I know the process and have used it, it is a presentation that I can give meaning to (instead of just doing it for the credit), and I the setup and teardown are quick and painless. Unfortunately, I had to come up with alternatives to this idea because I will need approval to bring the kitchen knife on campus and I will need to set aside time in the days leading up to the presentation to practice the actual act. The next candidate is demonstrating how to use the Tap Strap. If you have not heard of it, the Tap Strap is a keyboard-glove that you wear like a set of brass knuckles. I like this one because I think it is original and there is practically no setup or teardown. My issue with this is, given that it is a keyboard, I will need to be able to demonstrate its Bluetooth keyboard abilities with a compatible machine that I can also project from. I will have to look into this when I get the chance. Finally, I had the idea to present on how to give good hugs. This is the last resort if the other two options fall through, but I am guaranteed to have everything I will need to present: a volunteer (unless the other presenters plan on missing their presentation day). As secure as this presentation is in material, I will have to work hard to make an effective presentation out of it. If I must, I believe I can do it. I still have time, so I will have made my decision after the first round of presentations are over and I figure out what I will be allowed – and capable – to do.

Also of significant importance, I am hoping to remedy the impurities present in my previous presentation. A lot of issues were brought to my attention that nobody has even informed me of, such as smacking my lips. I also thought I was much better at filtering out filler words than I apparently demonstrated, but this might be due to delivering in a different environment from the one in which I learned not to “fill.” I want to focus on fixing these, and I think I need to start by preparing the flow of my presentation. I believe most of my filler word sins occur during transitions, meaning that if those sections of dictation are solid, I believe I will have eliminated most of audible presentation quirks. I will be making an experiment out of this, so we will see when the day comes.

**Introductions and Conclusions**

One of the “required improvements” for this batch of presentations is less generic/more interesting introductions and conclusions. This requirement is one of the biggest reasons why I would like most to do the onion dicing presentation. For that presentation, I believe I have formulated a great exposition and denouement. I would like to start with a short abstract anecdote about the frustrations of preparing onions for a roast or something similar, to provide reason and demand for the instruction that I am about to give. As I finish up chopping my demonstrative bulb of tears, I would like to say something like “There we have a beautifully diced pile of onion,” with which I will begin demonstrating how to scrape the onion off of the cutting board into a Tupperware container, finishing with “Now you’re ready to cook, relatively tear-free.” Not only is this an effective outro, but it also serves as part of my teardown. Alas, this is a dream that may not be grounded in reality due to the cutting knife requirement, so I will talk about what I have come up with for my alternatives. I have not given much attention thereto, so these descriptions will be somewhat less detailed than what the onion has. For the Tap Strap, I was planning on starting with a different anecdote about being a lazy cannot-be-bothered college student who hates carrying a laptop around. For the hug, I think I will start with an infomercial-esque exposition of problems we face with bad hugs in our everyday life: “Does this happen to you? Are you tired of…?” I have not come up with good endings for these yet. I would like for them to resolve the issues presented in the introduction, but that is the idea, right? I will keep working on it until I get something better. I have more time this round to see what works with the others, after all.

**Remarks**

I am more excited for this presentation for a few reasons. A big one is that I am not required to dress up in an overfitting, itchy suit. I also am more excited about giving a presentation where I can give real meaning to the content. I feel like having less PowerPoint and more interactive presentation material, even if it is just a volunteer, makes this presentation easier to improvise on and adjust for the audience. I might not be able to present on dicing an onion like I wanted. I am still coming up with ideas for alternatives to present on, so it might be completely different from what I have proposed here. No matter what topic I end up with, I think I will enjoy this one.