**Seth:**

Seth’s presentation was about how to use a French press. He jumped into it by highlighting the issues with single-serve Keurig cartridges. I felt like he laid a lot of emphasis on those issues that were supposed to be answered by his French press, but I didn’t feel that all of them were. Mostly, I think he focused on the issue of cost but not the other ones he brought up such as flavor.

He talked a little too fast. Usually, this is a wholly bad thing, but I personally felt like it supported his presentation, though I am not sure why. Maybe he was intentionally in character with the theme of coffee. Even though his speech was a little quick for taste, I felt like he actually took good breaks and pauses between phrases or sentences that I did not see from most others.

I was not sure what purpose the coffee grounds being passed around served. I believe he mentioned the aroma, but I don’t believe this justifies the prop. I would like to believe that this was done to demonstrate a fineness of coffee grounds that is suitable for a French press (too fine and it gets stuck in the mesh), but I do not want to project my experience onto my expectations for his presentation.

The demonstration of grinding the beans and pressing the coffee down was difficult to see from the back. I wish he had raised his props during the process.

**Samuel:**

Samuel’s presentation was about how to replace a worn-out electrical socket. I wonder if this process applies to non-American outlets as well. I wish he had clarified this.

I do not believe there was not very much in the way of an introduction for this presentation. He definitely jumped into the instructions right away. He may have done this in order to save time, as his process was definitely long, but in this case I think he should have thought more about trying to come up with a shorter but high-impact introduction to grab attention.

I was a little disappointed by his PowerPoint slide. The process that he demonstrated is wordy and detailed compared to others, so I do not feel like it made sense for him to try to pack those steps into his one slide. Unlike some of the other presentations, I think I would have liked to see his steps in a handout instead of on the PowerPoint. I think it would have made it easier to remember. Personally, I do not remember the steps he dictated because it was just too much information to retain after hearing once, and the PowerPoint did not help. I think the PowerPoint should have been used to give higher-resolution imagery surrounding some of the more unviewable components of his demonstration.

He had a good pace of speech and he included a lot of details, but I felt like he did a good job of keeping only the important points in his lines. However, I felt like there was a bit too much dead air while he was in the middle of performing some steps.

He just did one tiny thing that bugged me at the end when he brought out his multimeter tool. He had it to push the point that you are supposed to check your newly installed outlet for safety, but he just unwrapped then immediately rewrapped it. It’s not a terrible sin, but I felt it was distracting and I was expecting him to use it some way. I think he should have just kept it wrapped up or brought it out already unwrapped.

**Ryan:**

Ryan’s skill to share was how to make carrot cake. I believe it was his mother’s recipe.

Right off the bat he started with “Alright.”

Didn’t bring his carrot cake. I’m not sure if this was just a joke or if he actually was planning on bringing it. He should have done something to dismiss this ambiguity or not have suggested that he forgot something.

While talking, he had a very jagged flow between words. I am not sure what other way to describe it other than “staccato.” Even though, he still moved way too fast through his dictation. I didn’t write this down, but I distinctly remember him reading from his PowerPoints a lot.

For his presentation, he listed the ingredients and steps verbally. Initially this irked me a bit, because this would have been a perfect opportunity for a handout, but there wasn’t one. The handout did not come until he was done. I wish he had passed it out at the beginning.

He was planted behind the podium even though he wasn’t interacting with any demonstration or prop.

Most of his transitions were “And then…” – the entire presentation felt like one large run-on sentence. The phrase “You know” also graced my ears quite a few times during his presentation.

I do not remember exactly how it went, but when his presentation was over I had absolutely no idea. I do not think there was much of a conclusion, his body languages just shifted to “I’m done” and he walked away from the podium. He left a lot of room here.

**Nicholas:**

Nicholas’s presentation was how to upgrade your laptop with an SSD. I actually do not even know if he mentioned what SSD was or stood for, or how it is different from an HDD other than being faster. The title of his presentation was “How to Upgrade Your Computer,” which I thought was ambiguous. There are more ways to upgrade your computer than just adding an SSD, so I could see that someone not quite as technical might think that this is **the one way** to upgrade your computer just going off his title.

His presentation was kind of hands on like Samuel’s, but it was harder to see because it was smaller. There was one point where he said “If y’all can see that” – I could not. There was one point, however, where he held up the laptop. It was when he seated the SSD into its slot to show what it looks like before it is pushed down parallel to the board. I appreciated this.

At some point he said, “I’m not gonna show y’all how to do that.” I think it would have been more appropriate and constructive to politely direct the audience to Google, since I believe that was his reason for not doing so.

His conclusion started with “I hoped you learned something today.” I am not sure where this falls on the appropriateness spectrum, but I felt a bit insulted by this, actually, and I am sure that others might have as well.

**Matt T.**

Matt’s presentation was about how to crack an egg with one hand. This has been my favorite presentation so far for a number of reasons.

His point of emphasis was that you can use this to seem cooler to your friends – it doesn’t get more convincing than that.

His energy was good throughout the presentation. Specifically, when it was time for us to crack our eggs, I think he did a really good job of hyping up the audience with the chants.

I appreciate that he showed us how to do it **before** getting us to do it with him.

I think the high concentration of predictable egg puns was helpful to his introduction, but his tactical reduction in egg puns was smart and worth appreciating, because I they would have gotten stale fast.

Extra note: I do not know if I can credit this to his presentation specifically, as it is fairly simple and really just a matter of hand placement, but it is the only one that I have remembered and applied after the fact, so it had to be pretty effective.

**Matt G.**

Matt Greene’s presentation was about how to make a PB&J.

The text on his PowerPoint was difficult to read from the back of the room.

Had had some issues with fully delivering his ideas. There was one point when he said “And you get it,” but it is easy to consider a situation where I wouldn’t just get it. In this case, I would be lost. I’m glad it was just a presentation about something as mundane as making a sandwich and not more complicated. There was another point, when he was talking about contaminating the jelly with the peanut butter on the knife, when he very strongly exclaimed “Don’t!” then backed away from finishing his sentence by saying “It’s just weird.” I felt like it would have been more effective and amusing if he had followed up on the “Don’t.” The audience was on board with it and seemed fairly amused by some of the other PB&J issues he brought up, so I thought this would have fit in quite well had it been carried out.

Throughout his presentation, he delivered a lot of his own personal opinions about PB&J. I think it is normal, appropriate, and even occasionally funny for the speaker to insert their personality into their speech, but Matt was doing it too much.

His tone was good and I believe he kept the audience entertained to a good level.

**Lindsay:**

Linday’s presentation was about how to make bows out of ribbons, specifically in the context of wrapping gifts.

Lindsay’s introduction had a lot to do with her experiences at Christmas surrounding the gifts shared between her family. I think this well considered introduction for her to use, since the audience would have their recent Christmas experiences fresh on their minds.

I appreciated her walking up and down the aisle as she tied her bow. It helped greatly with visibility and energy.

I have written that her ending was “Ok,” which mostly reflects how her presentation has stuck with me. While it was an interesting presentation, I found myself pretty bored. For this reason, I remember very little about her presentation, and it is not how the bow was tied. I do not even remember how she ended. There wasn’t anything special about it – good or bad – which is why “Ok” is all I could muster writing about it. I felt like it was not significant at all, and just felt like another part of the presentation. Really, this was how I felt about the whole presentation in general. I think a lot of it had to do with her voice, was deathly monotone. I think she was really focused on tying the bow and not paying attention to how she was speaking. Fortunately for her, her intense instruction paired with her treks up and down the aisle kept the energy of the presentation higher than it would have been if she had just done it at the front. This is the best decision she made.

**Overarching Notes:**

I think many presenters interpreted the suggestion of “a prop to pass around” as a requirement, and I believe this had a negative impact on some of their presentations. Additionally, most presenters seem to not consider much how easy their demonstrations are to see from the back of the flat room.