**C-Cs**

For this final round of presentations, I am pleasantly surprised that the class, I would say including myself, has on average improved. While some have failed to really grasp the mistakes they made in previous presentations, continuing to commit them in this P4, others have quite noticeably improved. I have noticed an increase in the occurrences of specific presentation techniques, such as appropriate pregnant pauses, but also improvement in presentation basics such as not standing at attention while speaking. The difference that stuck out the most to me was the gradient between one presenter’s (I did not take notes to take this name down) P2 about using French presses versus his P4 about Dungeons and Dragons. This individual’s P4 was an enormous step up, and in my opinion is a good representation of the growth of Patent Pending overall.

**Day 1**

Emily - Organic Debunking:

* Saying um quite a bit
* Talking to screen a lot
* Stuck to the right side of the screen - not moving much
* Organic vs Conventional slide has a lot of text in bright orange against a white background
  + This is completely unreadable and generally just way too much information to try to pack onto a slide
  + Did this on a lot of slides including graphic slides
* Most eye contact with professor.
* Transitioning with "so" a lot
* Inflects voice upwards at the end of most phrases and sentences - no relief for listeners
* Weak ending

This presentation was reminiscent of the presentation she gave for P3 in terms of visuals and delivery. I would not say that she has improved much.

Sam - Electric Grid:

* Standing behind desk
* Reading from notes a lot
* Low volume
* Twiddling thumb, Licking lips
* Slide theme fits somewhat

I never felt super impressed or interested in Sam’s presentations. It could be a personal preference thing but I have noticed that I tend to get lost with his content.

Megan - independent pharmacies:

* "How many joe's you know" - makes it personal
* Transitioning with so a lot - quite a few um's
* Planted on right side of screen
* Lots of active hand gestures (good probably)
* Very quick glances back at screen.
* Bullet point slides
* Slide theme and imagery fits with topic well
* "And these are my references! (shy)"

Megan was delivering pretty strong presentations right from the start, which is obviously a good thing, but I do not feel like she has done much to rectify the same errors she continues to make with every presentation.

Lindsay - squirrel saving your brain:

* Smooth introduction, draws you in with promise of saving your brain
* Gives details like a story
* Stumbling over words
* Moving around, sweeping eye contact
* Continuously posing interesting questions that are meant to poke holes in the audience understanding
* Unique conclusion slide.

Lindsay still displayed the quirk of losing confidence as the presentation progresses, but it is much better than it used to be.

Ryan - Legos:

* Planted behind table
* Swinging arm
* Saying uh a lot
* pretty bland PowerPoint
  + Other than Lego frame, just white background
  + Bullet points
* Some work, mostly play slide had a lot of graphics and text packed onto it - I could not read it
* "and... well that’s about it" – awkward way to end

Overall, I would not say Ryan has grown much at all. He always seems to come completely unprepared (P2 flashbacks) with last minute visuals, and P4 one is unfortunately not any different.

Juan - Augmented Reality:

* Planted on right side of screen
* Good high eye contact
* Not spending much time in notecard
* Good body language
* Slide is pretty basic - pictures and bullet points
* Point-by-point conclusion. No references.

I think Juan’s early issues were mostly with timeboxing his presentations. I believe P3 and into P4 he showed growth in restraining his content to fit within a small time-frame.

**Day 2**

Walter – Boeing 737 Max 8:

* Pretty abrupt intro, starting with question
  + This question I actually found “useful” because it was used to point out some ignorance or unawareness among the audience
* Moving pretty fast
* Not much theme in presentation
* Transitioning with “so” a lot
* Small narrow text is hard to read
* Stuck behind podium
* Spent lots of time telling the story stuck on the “inside the cockpit” slide, whereas the slides were moving much faster before. Could have included some change while telling the story.
* A little too much reading from paper. It is mostly for statistics, but his eyes disappear into the podium.

Sam is still delivering with a very casual, fraternal tone. For this presentation it is fine, but he was doing it for the other presentations, so I am not sure if he understands the fault. Overall though, I think this presentation was an improvement from his others in terms of overall confidence and flow.

Brady – Vulcan:

* Began with an inspiring of story of how a rocket launch changed his life, resulting in his code being used for a next launch
* Reading from slides a lot
* Consistent theme
* Unlike others, transitioning with “now” a lot.
* Pretty detailed and wordy explanations of how the rockets function. Probably not all of this information is really important for this platform.
* On the “improvements” slide, you spelled “improvments"
* The charts on the improvements slides were very small and busy – couldn’t interpret data
* Inspiring outro lives up to intro

Brady has done a good job of becoming a more dynamic speaker. There is not a lot of variance in his speech styles, but his body language has improved dramatically.

Justin – Changes to English:

* First word was “uh”
* Pretty basic PowerPoint theming
* Bullet point content
  + Small, high-contrast text on bright slides is hard to read
  + Too much information
* Spending a lot of time in notes held in hand
* Not moving from spot to the right of screen
* Pretty awkward body language
* Just about every transition was “alright,” “so,” “okay,” and others
* Trying to deliver information verbally that would have been so simply conveyed with simple rectangles to depict the sections of the military in battles.
* Upward inflection at the end of most sentences makes speech feel like a run-on sentence. It’s not entirely clear where ideas begin and end.
* Slideument
* Three platforms were suggested but I only perceived storytelling
* Almost no dynamics in the presentation theme – entirely bullet-point based slides other than a couple of pictures

I feel like Justin, in the beginning, had trouble with body language due to his disability. I am sure that this was brought to his attention early on, but I think he took his body language addition to the other extreme, so now his motion just looks forced and awkward. He also continues to spend too much time reading from notes and coming with empty basic slides.

Ben – Feeding an Army:

* “Good Morning. So…”
* Speaking with a very low volume
* Rocking back and forth
* Very little gesturing – holding hands to waist
* Good theme, but text slides are sparse while the text itself is WAY too small; the space should be used
* Pictures were positioned and fit well on slides within the limits of the theme
* Overdressed; is this bad?
* Lots of time spent reading from slide
* Planted on right side of screen

I believe ben has mostly improved, but not in any particular way. I do not recall him having any quirks, other than the regular body language issues and maybe really basic visuals, but I feel like his presentations have gotten overall better.

Brian – Modern vs Traditional Dating:

* A lot of time spent on title slide
* Planted on right side of screen
* Strange choppy style of speech that is most prominent right before and right after slide transitions. This shows reliance on slide content.
* Appreciate the relevant theme and color scheme
* Text is just incomprehensibly small
  + Bullet points
* Picture examples
* Pretty clear when the platform changes
* Delivery of presentation felt influenced by bias to some extent
  + In general, failed to account for audience his bias but the audience bias as well. Some residual tension and conflict arose from this.

The most obvious during this presentation, I think Brian continues to struggle with presenting information in an objective way. I believe that he thinks that the topics and specific information that he delivers is interesting and fun from his own perspective, but I do not think he is yet able to criticize his own content from an observer point of view.

Elizabeth – Stroop Effect:

* Very interesting introduction involving volunteers, felt very engaging and proved a point
* After interactive introduction, remained planted to the right of the screen
* Lots of quick glances at PowerPoint or notecards. The flow of speech felt and sounded driven by notes.
* Performing an odd foot-shuffling sidestep usually between slides
* Basic but adequate theme

Elizabeth’s biggest issue, in my opinion, was the way she spoke individual works. More specifically, the way she paused in between words. It was very awkward, noticeable, and “discrete.” In this last presentation, I believe that she mostly overcame this issue. I remember that is still came through in a couple of instances, but at least it was a permeating trait.

Connor – Turbine Tech:

* “Alright people…”
* Interesting theme but obviously hand-organized (spacing was off between certain elements) but it was overall better than most
* Not a lot of consideration for contrast between text and slide color
* Speech has a very slow pace (like usual)
* Not exactly “planted” – there is a little bit of motion bounded by a small region – but there is no movement across the front of the room. Still better than most.
* Interesting wind turbine animation, but too much going on. Couldn’t tell which part of the turbine you were talking about when describing the components.
* Noting lots of details that aren’t really necessary for convincing
  + Like pressure-to-drag ratios – what even is that?
  + Personally, just lost
    - But it’s not all his fault, I am somewhat distracted by my notetaking
* Anticlimactic outro

Connor continues to speak in a very monotone and VERY slow manner. This fault ends his presentations before they start, unfortunately. This is not a presentation quirk – he talks like that in normal speech too. He needs to learn that this vocal mode is not suitable for engaging audiences larger than a group of friends.

**Reflection**

Over the course of this class, I have given four presentations. These are the differences between approaches and delivery, and how I tried to make each better than the last.

**P1 – Interview Introduction:**

I personally felt at the time that this would be the easiest presentation, because I have to give presentations about myself at work regularly. In fact, the PowerPoint theme that I used was the same one that I personally put together for these work presentations, complete with subtle slide transitions and fade animations. As I mentioned in class once when talking about critical errors, I did not prepare for the delivery of this presentation at all. Unfortunately, the computer that runs PowerPoint for this presentation was not able to keep up with the technical sugar that I had put into the presentation (the animations), causing the slide transitions to lag. Because I had not prepared the actual speech, I was relying on having the PowerPoint content ready for me to quickly glance over to know what the current point was supposed to be. This means that I had to wait for PowerPoint to catch up before I could move on, causing my execution to come out choppy, nervous, and awkward. I took a lot away from this presentation.

**P2 – Axes of Onion:**

Learning from my erred ways in getting ready for the first presentation, I started planning this presentation as soon as it was assigned. I was pretty sure I wanted to demonstrate this onion chopping technique that I learned for a few reasons:

1. I have done it before, and I know how to do it again
2. It is a short process, so I can make a short presentation out of it
3. I can present a relatable problem
4. I can make onion puns and assorted jokes
5. It’s new information for most people, so I can give them something to leave with

After getting approval from Tech PD, I made sure I really practiced for this presentation. In fact, in the grocery runs before this presentation, I bought plenty of disposable onions to sacrifice to make sure I get this right. The night before, I decided on a theme – I’ll make a little Japanese inspired spiel out of this presentation. I got a relevant font, some katana and Shinto shrine clip art, and made the one PowerPoint slide to simply show the three steps in the onion chopping process. I also decided to use the same images that I photoshopped for a handout, in case anybody wanted to use this process at home. I also prepared a haiku to really push the theme. Going into the actual presentation, I made sure that I knew the outline of my presentation by heart, and I believe this effort really paid off.

**P3 – Dynaboard:**

Keeping up with the strategy of presenting on things in my comfort zone as I did for P1 and P2, I decided to try and make a persuasive presentation about my senior capstone project product. For this presentation, I was mostly focused on trying to fix up some of the soft and small issues with my last two presentations and adding some more interesting inflections to the delivery. I focused on movement, trying to eliminate filler words, and making smooth transitions, and my approach was to really nail down my presentation sections and when I would approach them. I also memorized the order of my slides and content beforehand so that I would have an awareness of the upcoming content without having to rely on the slide printouts that I brought with me. In fact, I hardly used the slide printouts at all – I stopped looking at them once I remembered to leave the podium and move around. This preparation effort did not have quite the effect that I had hoped for, as I was still compelled to say “Um” and “so” regularly, even though I consciously recognized that I was trying to say those words when I did. I am not sure why I was unable to stop myself from letting those words slip through, but I believe I am scared of the dead air that would come about from formulating alternative terms. Thankfully, the effort I put into planning my points of emphasis paid off really well, because the class voted my presentation the best of the day.

**P4 – Cellular Automata:**

Once more with the strategy of talking about familiar topics, I decided that my research presentation ought to be about the area that I have done research in, which is cellular automata. These presentations were supposed to focus on presenting potential wordy and confusing topics in a way that is objectively understandable, as well as adjusting to the audience. I think I had an advantage because I myself entered research into cellular automata from no prior background, so I knew from the start exactly how I should describe what exactly cellular automata are and how they can be used. For “what” they are, I did my best to provide visual examples of each component of an automaton. For applications and future potential, I looked for examples where cellular automata have been or could potentially be used to model features of reality that everyone is familiar with, e.g. snowflakes. I personally believe I did a good job of keeping the specific information about cellular automata high level so as to be digestible for non-savvy individuals.

The other major focus of this presentation for me was theme. We had discussed in class some aspects of visual theming, so I wanted to make sure that this slideshow matched up to some of what was seen in class and to my previous presentations’ themes. I decided that I would speckle small cellular automata animations, mostly from simulations of Conway’s Game of Life, throughout the presentation. I actually spent the least amount of time in this presentation looking back at my slides on the screen, so I do not actually know how these animations turned out in action. I hope they were more engaging than distracting or off-putting. I considered this aspect of the theme to be a very high-risk move, but this was calculated, and I hope it worked out. A couple of other interesting things that I noticed during this presentation is that I was moving around the whole time without actively thinking about it, and I never even once looked at my printed slides. I think these are promising signs.

**Overall:**

I believe personally that I have improved quite a bit from my first presentation. I have gotten better at paying attention to how I am talking, what exact words are coming out of my mouth, and how I look when standing in front of everybody talking about yet another assigned topic. Now I am a lot more mobile and active with body language and am better at preparing and executing section transitions. I did not keep count of how many filler words and nervous ticks were displayed during my P4, but I am sure that it is a significant reduction from what was given for my P1. In the first couple of blog assignments, I talked about how I do not enjoy giving presentations, and that I feel that there are other individuals better suited than I to do so. I still feel this way even after all of this, but now I think I feel better about doing it when I must. It is, at the very least, not an entirely unpleasant experience anymore.