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COMS-102-01

Maxine Lewis

February 21, 2012

Informative Speech Reflection

On Wednesday of last week, I walked to the front of the class and delivered a speech to my peers and my instructor on the subject of The Stakeholders of the Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter. I spoke about, what I believed to be, the three most important stakeholders of this organization: Della Wagner, the manager of the shelter and one of only three paid employees who works there, the volunteer workers, and the homeless clients. After watching myself present, I can give my opinion on how I believe the speech went.

While watching my video, I first noticed the way I talk. I speak out of the side of my mouth which does something to my voice that I never notice. It helps to slur my words and makes my language less understandable. The other thing I noticed was that I said “um” many times during the first minute or so. I’m not sure if I just wasn’t confident enough at the beginning to speak fluidly, but I know things got better as time progressed. Maybe I tried too hard to keep my eyes on the audience that I wasn’t sure what to say and had to use fillers to keep my speech moving. I know I did look down many times to read my outline, but that may have increased later on in my speech leading me to restrict my uses of “um” to a minimum later on. I can speak much more effectively when I know exactly what I’m going to say. I need to break from that and adopt a more extemporaneous speaking style.

After rehearsing my presentation a few times, I knew it was overweighed with words and lacking in images. I didn’t have time to rewrite and take out words to better fit this need so I just said what I had written down. If I had included more slides in the PowerPoint, my presentation could have been much better. Even with a couple word slides, I could’ve better made my points and increased my audience’s understanding of the subject. With more images and graphs, they would have had a better image of what I was talking about. A simple word outline (very few words, just enough to get the idea) of the shelter’s daily routine would’ve made that information more understandable. The audience would’ve had a better mental image of how everything connects. If I had taken words out of the actual speech, I would’ve been able to speak slower and more effectively (not rush through the speech like I did). However, due to procrastination in finishing my speech outline, I was not able to do so.

Obviously, I have a number of things to improve upon. This long speech helped make many of my problems more apparent. The camera also helped me by giving me a unique viewpoint. It’s painful to watch oneself perform but no pain, no gain.