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SPC 325

Personal Goals Essay

I believe learning how to speak in front of people is always a learning process. No matter how many speech classes one takes, or speeches given, there is always room for improvement and each experience is just that, a learning experience. I have actually taken a speech class in high school; however, even being in class this past week, I have already learned new aspects to the art of public speaking.

I know most people say they like to talk, but it's actually something I love to do. Because of this, I would like for it to eventually be an aspect of my profession, therefore I want to truly learn how to do it well. I believe I can articulate my ideas so that other people can clearly understand the points I am trying to get across. Therefore, I am not only taking this course because it's a requirement, but I also believe it will be extremely beneficial for me in the future. Although, I think speaking in public is a quality that everyone should learn to conquer, for the truth is, speaking in public is number one on the list of things that Americans fear most. The art of public speaking is something that could enhance the daily lives of all individuals.

I believe that I have a lot of good aspects to my public speaking, however I think that there is always room for improvement in all areas. For me personally, the topic on which I am speaking I believe either makes or breaks the speech for me. If I am speaking about something that I am compassionate about, I usually captivate my audience with a

hook or personality quirk. However, if the topic is not something that I particularly enjoy, perhaps I could learn to 'act' a little more and somehow still entertain my audience while informing them as well. This is something I would like to learn how to do a little bit better.

Another aspect that I think I have to work on is the diction of my voice. However, this is not just for public speaking. I tend to drag my words out, or my tone of voice will be very distinct when I end my sentences. Not to mention, I can also tend to have a strong Jersey accent, this I could definitely work on. Perhaps hearing myself in the videotape, after I cringe, I can hear how bad my voice sounds and maybe I will be able to improve on this.

Other aspects besides my delivery of the speech that I could work on, is making the whole speech flow. I am usually pretty good about this, however if the topic is difficult and it's hard to break the body up into sections, this can also be a difficult task. If there is too much information I am trying to get across to the audience, sometimes I have a hard time deciding what is important and what just needs to be eliminated or even just combined with another topic. I think that it's important that no matter where you are in the speech, there is continuity and organization so that you know what you're speaking about, and therefore, more importantly, your audience can also follow along with you.

Lastly, because I do like to talk a lot, I always feel like I have so much to say, this goes back to realizing which aspects are important, and which ones I should cut out. Because of this, I can tend to talk fast and in doing so I can mumble my words and people won't always catch what I'm saying. These are a few aspects that I can most definitely improve on. In addition, I am positive that there are many more aspects that I could use

improvement on. I am looking forward to having others critique my speeches, and even watching myself so I can enhance my art of public speaking.