Critique of Informative Speech

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Informative Speech Critique

According to the first edition of Public Speaking Handbook by Steven and Susan Beebe, the word criticism comes from a Greek word meaning “to judge or discuss” (79). Thus, to criticize a speech is to discuss the speech, identifying both strengths and aspects that could be improved. In the informative speech, there were many successes and errors.

As mentioned in the third edition Public Speaking Handbook by Steven and Susan Beebe, “interesting, convincing supporting material is essential to making a speech successful” (193). In the speech, it was evident that the topic was well researched and that all data was supported by reputable research. In the presentation, there were verbal citations, which made the audience know that the information provided was factual and were not based opinions. Additionally, in the speech itself there were more sources, which gave an impression that the topic was well investigated. Another strength the speech attained was the use of visual aids. According to an article titled “Using Visual Aids” published by the University of Pittsburgh, visual aids improve audience understanding and memory, contribute to speaker credibility and contribute to speaker credibility. In the speech, the PowerPoint served as the visual aid. The PowerPoint was effective because the informative speech was based on the conflict with Israel and Palestine. According to the third edition of the Public Speaking Handbook by Steven and Susan Beebe, “it is important to analyze your audience” (101). This important factor made the visual aids successful. There may have been a few individuals in the audience that may not have known where Israel and Palestine were geographically located. Thus, the use of visual aids was worthwhile through an analysis of the audience.

Both the actual speech and the presentation of it have attributes that could be highly improved. As stated in the third edition Public Speaking Handbook by Steven and Susan Beebe, “eye contact opens communication, makes you more believable, and keeps you audience interested” (281). In the presentation, there was very little eye contact with the audience. In order to know the response of the audience, it is necessary to observe them. Moreover, eye contact is crucial because it lets the audience now that the speaker knows what they are talking about and that the audience is important. Eye contact is highly important because it also informs the audience that the speaker is prepared. Another characteristic of the speech that could be improved was the preparation of it. As quoted from the third edition Public Speaking Handbook by Steven and Susan Beebe, “instructors gave higher grades to student who spent more time rehearsing their speeches and gave lower grades to students who spent less time preparing and rehearsing” (310). Practicing makes perfect and a higher grade. Because of this statistic, it is highly important not to overlook the preparation of a speech. The speech did not have an abundance of training and reviewing because of the lack of confidence that was evident throughout the speech.

From the third edition Public Speaking Handbook by Steven and Susan Beebe, “Gestures, movements, and postures should appear natural and relaxed, definite, consistent with your message, varied, unobtrusive, and coordinated with what you say” (317). When delivering a speech, it is important to be calm because it helps the audience feel comfortable with the speaker and make a connection with them. Additionally, remaining calm helps the speaker vocally with enunciation and with pronunciation. In the speech, there were a few pauses and some pertinent information that was overlooked as a result of the lack of calmness. Remaining confident and calm ties with rehearsal and practicing as it makes the speaker more comfortable with the subject and with the audience.

The speech had many flaws and errors but yet had many positive aspects. Through this discussion of the speech and presentation, the speech performance has been evaluated and suggestions for improvement have been made.

Reference

Beebe, Steven A., and Susan J. Beebe. *The Public Speaking Handbook*. 1st ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2004. Print.

"Using Visual Aids." *Communication Across the Curriculum*. University of Pittsburgh, 21 Aug. 2008. Web. 11 Apr. 2012. <http://www.speaking.pitt.edu/student/public-speaking/visualaids.html>.