Persuasive Speech Self-Assessment Assignment

Terry Smith – CST 110

After preparing and delivering your persuasive speech, it is time to reflect on how the entire process went. Review your speech from the preparation to the delivery to come to a thorough evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of your speech. Type the reaction paper in full-sentence and paragraph form. Double space your typing and turn it in no later than exactly 10 days from the day on which you delivered your speech in class. As a very general guideline, a well-developed response typically runs about 4-5 pages double spaced.

Be very specific with your reaction. Give examples and concrete evidence to support your points. For example, do not comment that your introduction needs improvement. Instead tell me what, exactly, you would add or subtract from your introduction to make those improvements.

The following questions (most of which were adapted from the “Guide to Public Speaking” by Stephen E. Lucas) can be used to help direct your thoughts. Do not answer all of them and do not limit yourself to only answering what is suggested here.

Topic and Purpose

Was the topic appropriate for the audience?  
 Did you have a clear specific purpose that you could accomplish in the allotted time?  
 Why did you choose the topic?

Organization

Was the speech well organized?  
 Did you fulfill all the major functions of a speech introduction?  
 Did you fulfill all the major functions of a speech conclusion?  
 Were the main points of the body clear and easy to follow?  
 Did you use connectives/transitions effectively?

Supporting Materials

Did you conduct adequate research when preparing the speech?  
 Were your ideas well supported and explained?  
 Did you demonstrate a need to change to fulfill the requirements of a proposition of policy?  
 Did you present a clear plan to solve the need?  
 Did you prove the practicality of your plan?  
 How well did your visual aids support your speech?  
 How well did the presentation of your visual aids go?

Audience Adaptation

Did you identify the target audience for your speech?  
 Did you use evidence to answer potential objections of your audience?  
 Were your ideas directed at the particular demographics of the audience?

Persuasive Methods

What methods did you use to engage your audience?   
Discuss the ethos/pathos/logos of your arguments.  
Was the evidence deductive, inductive or did it rely on fallacies?

Delivery

Did you begin and end your speech without rushing?  
 Did you use pauses, paralanguage, vocal variety and other voice control during your speech?  
 Did your physical action add to or detract from the speech?  
 Did you maintain strong eye contact throughout the speech?

Video Assessment

What things did you notice that stood out to you when watching yourself on video?  
 What surprised you?  
 What went better than expected?  
 What will you do next time to improve now that you’ve seen yourself deliver a speech?

Overall Assessment

What were you most pleased with in the speech?  
 What were you least pleased with in the speech?  
 If you could deliver this speech again next week, what changes would you make?