

Anthony Montanelli
Speech 120
April 19, 2008

Outside Speaker Evaluation

On Tuesday, April 7th I attended the Careers and Majors Night at the San Ramon campus of DVC. I was excited to attend because I enjoy hearing about possible careers for myself and I feel it provides motivation to succeed. As I walked into the Learning Commons it reminded me of a court room where a panel of judges would sit and face the audience, which immediately gave me a feeling of somewhere I wouldn't want to be. Along with that the room did not feel invigorating and felt uninviting. I was greeted pleasantly and handed a program of the event, which I felt was very helpful because it gave the speakers credibility before they even began to speak. The event consumed about half of the Learning Commons which is a rather large room. There were probably 40 to 50 chairs lined up in rows of about twelve seats. The majority of the audience was comprised of students, which leads me to believe we were more of a concerted audience. The first thing I noticed when I sat down was there was nobody in the first five rows except for myself and a select few. This gave me the impression that the majority of people that attended were not entirely interested in the event but attended to fulfill a class requirement or an extra credit opportunity. On the right side of the speaker table was a podium which I assumed was going to be used by the speaker. I was later proved wrong which was disappointing because it made it difficult to see the speaker because most of them sat down during their speech. I sat in the second row and occasionally struggled to view the speaker, I can only imagine how difficult it was for the rest of the audience

behind me. The podium would have provided better projection of the voice along with the ability to make eye contact with the entire audience.

With all my biases and first impressions aside I was looking forward to the first speaker. The speech by Marty Williams stood out to me because it was directly related to our upcoming persuasion speech. Marty gave a proposition of value persuasion speech in that she tried to convince the audience that becoming a teacher was more rewarding than other professions. Marty began her speech by referring back to Nikki's speech in that she told us that she really loved her speech because of the love story that was involved. I felt that her introduction did not lead into the topic smoothly and did not generate any interest. I also didn't recognize any attention getting device such as a shocking statistic about large class sizes or the shortage of teachers. Although she did give the audience an initial summary I felt she delivered a weak introduction and with the 10 minutes allotted for her speech I felt this was a poor use of time. Throughout Marty's speech she made good eye contact but tended to jump around rather quickly, solid eye contact would have improved her persuasiveness. One thing I noticed was that she reiterated that "we need good teachers," now that's alright to say but when said too many times it loses its emotional appeal and comes off a little desperate. Throughout Marty's speech she was always smiling which gave the audience the sense that she was very enthusiastic about teaching. I feel enthusiasm about your topic really solidifies a persuasive speech. Marty maintained great posture and projected her voice well for the duration of the speech. Marty had a very subtle tonal quality with scattered areas of inflection which could have used improvement but did not take away from her speech. Marty was very well versed and because her extensive use of the English language she didn't use any fillers. This

might have been the most persuasive part of her speech. As I stated earlier Marty was sitting down throughout her entire speech which did not help her persuasion mainly because I don't think the audience behind the second row could see her and fully appreciate her enthusiasm for the topic.

As part of Marty's speech she incorporated a visual aide in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, which if used correctly can enhance persuasion. The first slide of the PowerPoint was very difficult to make out; this showed she did not verify the integrity of her visual aide prior to her presentation. On a positive note Marty did not only repeat what was on the PowerPoint but spoke conversationally while referring back to the PowerPoint. Marty also maintained eye contact and spoke directly to the audience while referring to the PowerPoint which solidified her knowledge of the topic and that she knew what was on the screen. On the last slide she provided a link to reference more information about becoming a teacher which I felt very useful and effective for someone considering this profession.

Overall I felt it was a good speech, it could have used a solid attention getting device to get us interested in learning about the great reasons for becoming a teacher. As the conclusion to her speech she made the statement that "teachers make a livable wage," which in my opinion is not an outstanding argument and would not persuade me to consider becoming a teacher. Also I would suggest including more hand movement and gestures throughout the speech especially during the PowerPoint presentation. However this would have been rather difficult due to the microphone in her hand. If she was at the podium with a microphone stand this issue would have been resolved. I really didn't like that most of the speakers sat down during their speech I felt it really took away from their

speech. If standing they would have better projected their voices, the audience would have a better view and maybe this would have generated more interest from the majority of the audience. Other than that it was a well organized presentation of a highly education panel of speakers.