

Speech Write-Up Assignment

We live in a country and in an era where voicing ideas is important and necessary to upholding a democracy. We often form our own opinions based on information we receive from others. Therefore, it is extremely important to use our critical listening and thinking skills to evaluate the content and quality of other speakers' messages. For this assignment, you will use the public speaking skills we learn during this semester to evaluate and critique a speech of your choice.

Your task is to witness a scheduled, prepared speech given on or off campus. The speech should last at least **15 minutes**. You are expected to participate as an audience member at a **live public speech event**, not to observe a televised speech or a recording on the internet. Speech events are advertised around campus, in Hugh Gillis Hall, and in the *Spartan Daily* and the *San Jose Mercury News*.

After hearing your selected speech, write an essay that addresses the following:

- **Describes the context.** Who was the speaker, who was the audience, what was the occasion, where and when was the speech presented? What type of speech was given? (i.e. informative, persuasive, evocative)
- **Summarizes the speech content and organization.** What did the speaker talk about? Was the thesis sentence evident? What was the purpose of the speech? Can you identify the main points of the speech and the organizational pattern followed? Describe the introduction and conclusion for the speech.
- **Assess the speaker's development of the speech content.** Was the reasoning sound? How effectively did the speaker support her or his position? What did the speaker do to gain and hold attention? Did the speaker use any identifiable information and persuasive strategies?
- **Assess the speaker's delivery.** How effective was the speaker's use of vocal and physical delivery? Was the overall impression one of confidence and credibility? Was the audience responsive to the speaker?
- **What grade would you give this speaker, and why?** Did the speaker achieve his/her purpose, in your opinion? Explain why or why not.

Essential Information

- **Due Date: no later than 1:30pm on December 1** (but do it sooner rather than later!)
- 3 – 4 pages in length
- 10% of your overall grade
- Your work must be
 - Formatted with 1" margins all around
 - Double-spaced
 - Printed in 12-point Times New Roman
 - Numbered on all pages
 - Spell-checked
 - Carefully edited and proof-read
 - Stapled *before* you get to class
 - Note: You do not need a cover sheet for your essay. Instead, in the top left corner list your name, the date, the class and section, and my name