**Module 3 Lesson 5 Assignment: Sharpening Our Public Speaking Skills**

In the following assignment, you will explore the concept of public speaking and why it's an important skill in your career-life journey. Public speaking doesn't come naturally or easily...it's a skill that requires consistent effort and perseverance over time. There are many considerations to public speaking, such as eye contact, posture, professional appearance, and volume, and today you will use these considerations to evaluate four different speeches.

**Part 1**

In Part 1 of this assignment, you will be watching four video clips to learn about and evaluate some different aspects of public speaking skills.

NON VERBAL COMMUNICATION:

Because body language us such an important aspect of public speaking, you will watch the first two videos on mute and only assess the speaker visually in terms of:

* **Gestures:**How does the speaker use body language and their hands during a speech to engage the audience?
* **Eye contact:**Is the speaker looking out at the audience and connecting, or looking down at the floor?
* **Smiling:**Does the speaker smile at the audience?
* **Speaking from memory:**Does the speaker seem to have their speech mostly memorized so they can make eye contact, or are they reading directly from a script?
* **Movement:** Does the speaker move around the stage to connect with different sections of the audience, or do they stand in one spot?
* **Professional appearance:**Is the speaker dressed to convey professionalism?
* **Posture:**Is the speaker standing up straight, or are they hunched over?

A) **Non-Verbal Evaluation:**copy the following table and watch the two videos below **on mute (without any sound)**. Rate each speaker on a scale from 1-5 where 1 = bad and 5 = good.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker | Gestures | Eye contact | Smiling | Speaking from memory | Movement | Professional appearance | Posture |
| Bill Gates |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| John Doe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Video #1:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsgvhP07BC8>

(watch minute 7:06-8:06)

**Video #2:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SojAr3DdxrA

(watch minute 0:00-1:00)

VERBAL COMMUNICATION:

In the next two videos, you will watch the first two videos and pay special attention to the speaker in terms of:

* **Tone:**What is the speaker’s attitude to what they’re talking about? Do they seem happy, hopeful, curious, upset, angry, negative?
* **Pace:**How fast is the speaker delivering their words and can the listener keep up with them?
* **Volume:**How loud is the person speaking and how appropriate is their volume for the speech topic and audience?
* **Inflection:**How does the speaker’s voice rise and fall during a speech to emphasize certain points?

**B) Verbal Evaluation: copy the following table and watch the two videos below with sound.**

Rate each speaker on a scale from 1-5 where 1 = bad/negative and 5 = good/positive.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker | Tone | Volume | Pace | Inflection |
| Michelle Obama |  |  |  |  |
| Phil Davison |  |  |  |  |

**Video #1:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=2&v=4ZNWYqDU948

(minute 1:49-2:49)

**Video #2:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=2&v=h54mVgYkCvQ

(minute 0:00-1:00)

**Part 2**

In Part 2 of your assignment, you will create a short video piece answering the guiding questions below. This is a safe place to start (or continue) your public speaking journey as your video will just be viewed by your teacher! A great way to approach your video is to think about the aspects of public speaking in Part 1. Do the best you can, and understand that we are just working on, not perfecting, our public speaking skills!

*Questions for your video:*

* Why is public speaking an important skill? Where are some personal and professional scenarios in life where people may need to speak in front of a crowd?
* Have there been any situations in your life where you had to speak in front of a crowd? How did you feel?
* What types of jobs do you think would require public speaking skills? How would public speaking factor into these jobs?
* Public speaking is an important skill in our career-life journey in order to prepare us for job interviews. Which aspects of verbal and non-verbal communication do you feel would be most important during a job interview?
* What did you find most interesting in the communication styles of each speaker in the videos?

Public speaking is a lifelong journey that requires goal setting and resiliency. The effective speakers that you see in videos or in your life have had a lifetime of practicing, and maybe even professional training, to improve their public speaking skills. It's perfectly normal to be nervous about speaking in front of a crowd, but you will never improve and become more comfortable without practice!

**Upload your Public Speaking assignment as well as your video journal here. In addition, upload your video journal to your Grade 9 myBlueprint portfolio using the "Add Media" function.**