

View and Analyze Video of Interview Assignment

I hope that, by now, you will have viewed the video of your paper bag speech. While the equipment that recorded your speech is not professional grade, the documentation of the speech event will give objective feedback so you can

- gain an understanding of what you did or what you tend to do
- develop insight on what you would like to do in the future
- continue to improve as a speaker and critical listener.

The videotape of your paper bag speech will say more to you than any written or oral critique. Videotaping speeches will allow you to chart personal progress from the beginning through the end of term. You will also become more comfortable being in front of a camera—good preparation for being in your cousin’s wedding party! The class’s videotapes will be available for viewing in the Speech Lab during the times it is open for use. Please try to schedule your viewing and analysis as soon after the speech assignment as possible. This is for the sake of logistics, as the Lab may become crowded in the final weeks of the semester, but, from the standpoint of learning, you will experience more improvement if you were to study the videotaped speech event *prior to* the next speaking opportunity. That next speaking opportunity will be the major assignment of the semester, the family group project.

View the video of your class interview three times. I suppose that there is no way to check whether you actually do this but, as a communication professional who has done consulting work, it’s what I recommend to clients. Not only do they view their videotape—they insist on viewing it—but I ask them to write a more extensive debriefing of what they “see.” It’s important to do this so the speaker can come to terms with the speech act and lay down plans for the future.

On the first viewing, just observe the speech event. Sit with your feelings at this time because you may experience pleasant surprise, embarrassment (remember that is an emotional block!), growing pride, and so on. On the second viewing, jot down some notes that you will want to expand upon. Probably some of the initial visceral reaction will have abated by then and you will start to observe certain things in the speech event. On the third viewing, observe the speech event with a critical eye; the three viewings are important because, usually by the third viewing, the discomfort of seeing yourself on tape usually subsides, allowing for more objective examination of personal performance. At this time, see if there is anything you wish to modify in your notes. Note that the word “criticism” is derived from the word “crites,” which means a coming to judgment. Invariably, you will see some things you like and other things you will want to work on for the future.

Type your analysis (below) and turn it in and *discuss* it with the lab instructor. What you type and discuss should address the 4 areas specified below.

1. What were your strengths in the following areas in the interview:

- Organization and development of ideas; was there a specific, concrete example used to support any assertion?
- Delivery (gestures, eye contact, vocal dynamics, energy, appearance, facial expression)
- Artifacts (what do you think your choice of clothing communicated about you? what might you wear in an actual interview situation for your ‘ideal’ job?)

2. What are some things for you to work on in the above areas?

3. Thinking about interview, try to set one specific goal in each of the following areas for your next class presentation: [As you know, it is the family group assignment and you will be given in-class time to work on it—though that will probably not be sufficient for you to complete the task.]:

Organization and quality of conversational remarks
Delivery and connection with interviewers
Visual aid (your own self, artifacts)

Briefly discuss your action plan with regards to the family group assignment. What do you think you will have to do in order to accomplish each of the above goals? That is, what specific steps will you take in regard to each goal?

4. In addition, you have already worked with your group to produce a "position announcement" for job applicants. What lessons did you learn about yourself in functioning as part of a group? What are two strengths you have as a group member and two shortcomings that you have observed in fulfilling this aspect of the interview assignment? If you met any challenges in fulfilling this aspect of the group assignment, what could you do to anticipate for and handle these moments in the future?