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Final Reflection

CO210 – 04

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Reflection

 The initial goals I had set for myself included being a confident, charismatic speaker who is self-assured both in mannerisms and the message she is conveying. Additional goals I had in mind were performing well in spite of anxiety and sticking to what was rehearsed. I have reached these goals in two ways: Faking it and having a supportive audience. I have learned many things over the course of this semester and the most crucial of them all – fake it until you make it. When it comes to minor mistakes such as stuttering or mispronouncing a word or major mistakes like forgetting one line and having to fit an extra one in for relevance and clarity, the audience is not aware of any of this. From the audience’s perspective, you are speaking to them, and they do not know how you planned to deliver your speech (unless the audience is your classmates) therefore you can appear to them however you choose and they will believe you, if you are convincing enough. In short, faking your confidence will go a long way and in doing so, you will begin to genuinely feel confident.

 The second and last thing that helped with delivering speeches was knowing that your audience does not want to see you fail. Yes, a disastrous, awkward speech may make things more interesting and it is possible that a few people in the audience would like seeing that, but overall, the audience does not watch you with their first thought being “I hope he/she messes up.” To think that your audience supports you, or at the very least, hopes you do not mess up, is comforting and helps you believe in yourself.

 My favorite speech was “This I Believe”. What made this my favorite is that I had chosen a topic that was both important and fascinating to me, and that made sharing it with the class all the more easy and interesting. In addition, it was something very meaningful to me, as it had taught me a lot. This was the first speech presented in class and I did an okay job, with my main problems being reading too fast and lack of clarity due to reading fast. However, I have learned a lot from that first speech and that is another reason it is my favorite.