

COM 114 Assessment

COM 114 was definitely an experience. Being that I am a senior at Purdue and steadily getting closer to graduating next semester (YAY!), it is an astonishment that I waited so long to register for this course. However, coincidentally enough, I am glad that I decided to postpone my COM 114 endeavors until this point because had I not, I would not have ended up in this particular class. I have dreaded taking this class since enrolling here at Purdue Calumet and did almost anything to stall my registration for it, but I shocked myself when realizing that I actually enjoyed COM 114.

This can be attributed immensely to the supportive communication climate you created for our class, which allowed us to feel comfortable in a public speaking forum where we got to voice our opinions and share our communicative experiences with one another easily. Usually, I participate in most of my courses, but not as frequently as I did in COM 114 because of the level of comfortability we established from the very beginning of entering this class. I definitely think the "best friend speed-dating" really played a major role in this as well because it was a fun way of establishing a quick connection with many of our peers. Because of this, I met a few new people that I actually enjoy conversing with that have a goofy personality similar to mine.

Upon entering COM 114, I had severe performance and speech anxiety. Although I delivered a salutatorian speech in front of thousands of people when I graduated from high school, I still had not overcome my anxiety in delivering speeches. I think that I am a relatively good communicator and listener, as well as pretty sociable; however, I still tend to get absolutely

nervous when speaking alone in front of an audience. COM 114 did help alleviate a little of my speech apprehension by revealing different coping mechanisms that confront anxiety. Although I was pretty shaky in presenting my informative speech, I believe I had a better grasp with my performance of the persuasive speech because I was slightly more confident and knew what prior problems I had to address in order to deliver an effective speech. Hopefully, this newly acquired bit of confidence transposes into the rest of my academic career and elsewhere where individual public orations are required.

All in all, I really did enjoy COM 114 more than I ever would have expected. You provided us with knowledge about communication in a fun, interesting (and sometimes, eclectic) way that we could all relate to on some level. There was virtually never a dull moment in this class. With that said, I'm really glad I waited to take COM 114 until my final year at Purdue because I think I scored a pretty good class with equally awesome people.