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Com 114

Reflection Paper

When I took speech class in high school at Lake Central, I hated it. I hated going to the class and I didn't really like the people or any of the assignments we had to do. When I saw that I had to take a speech class, or Com 114, in college, I was not very thrilled to say the least. To be completely honest, I was preparing for it to be one of my worst classes because of the amount of time you need to spend on preparing for speeches and the tests. I was completely wrong and the class turned out to be different.

On the first day of class, we played a game to learn each other's names and introduce ourselves. I have played games like that many times before and it always seems like everyone just does it because they have to and nobody really cares about what the other person has to say. The difference here was that it seemed like most of the people in this class seemed to actually care about what I had to say. I introduced myself to almost everyone in the room and if I saw someone from the class in the hall or somewhere else they would greet me and it was like we were all friends. I think the students in the class made a huge difference on how enjoyable the actual class was.

I learned a large amount of material from this class and it did not even feel like a speech class. I learned things from the book that I did not know and I learned about working with other students. We had a few group projects and from them I learned what it takes to cooperate with others and make something work. For

example, on the group project for the movie, my group had the social network and we all had to meet up a few times but each meeting someone could not make it. We also had some difficulty agreeing on the specific points we had to mention in the presentation and learned that to get things done, sometimes you have to just go with the flow of the rest of the group. So from all of this, I learned how to deal with people and how to work in a group.

Most people would probably say that the worst part of a speech class is actually giving the speeches. I said that before this class, but now I feel differently. The speeches were surprisingly easy because of the variety of options for speech topics. The other thing that made the speeches easy is that I felt like I knew everybody in the class so I did not feel nervous giving the speech. When I looked around the room while standing at the podium, it seemed like everyone was paying attention and actually cared about what I had to say. We also covered quite a bit of material before the speeches that gave me a good idea on what I needed to do to deliver a good informative and persuasive speech. From this class, I believe that I am a much stronger public speaker than I was before.

Com 114 really changed my view on a typical speech class. It changed my view from a class that I absolutely dreaded, to a class that I actually enjoyed going to. I believe the instructor did a great job on presenting the material in a way that kept everyone's interest and also had fun with the class while doing so. I made quite a few new friends in the class and it made for a very enjoyable experience. In conclusion, I learned a lot of material on communication, made a lot of new friends, and I believe that I am a much stronger speaker after taking Com 114.