

5th Hour Presentation Critique Activity

Purpose: This activity is designed to help students evaluate how a speaker's delivery enhances or detracts from a presentation's content. It is designed to accompany presentations or performances that students attend on campus as part of 5th Hour requirements in First Year Seminars. Depending on the nature of reflective essays assigned by the instructor, this activity could be used as a planning frame for the essay or as a separate activity.

Directions for Students: After attending a lecture, talk, or performance on campus, answer the following questions to reflect on the content and delivery of that presentation.

I. General Information:

1. What lecture/talk/performance did you attend?

2. Who was the intended audience for the event?

3. What was the occasion for the event? In other words, what was the speaker's purpose or message?

II. Content:

In 1-2 paragraphs, summarize the main points of the lecture/talk/performance. Consider what argument, message, or idea the speaker was trying to convey.

III. Delivery:

1. Describe where the speaker was during his or her presentation. For example, did the speaker stand at a podium? Stand off to the side and reference a screen or other visual aid? Sit in a chair with the audience in a circle?

2. Describe the speaker's use of eye contact. Did the speaker look up from what he or she was reading? Did the speaker only look at the screen or visual aid, or did he or she look at the audience as well?

3. Describe the speaker's gestures. Did the speaker point to things on a screen? Did the speaker use his or her hands to emphasize a point while speaking?

4. Describe the speaker's speech patterns. Did the speaker vary his or her tone? Was the speaker's volume adequate? Did the speaker trip over words or use many vocalized pauses ("um," "uh," "you know," etc.)?
