**Speech Critique**

By Rebeca Russi Daolio

**Description**

You will analyze and identify key components of public speaking. This assignment is not meant for you to judge, to say what you liked or disliked about the speech and/or speaker, rather you are asked to observe the elements that are present in the speech and speaker. The idea is for you to be a conscious observer rather than an emotional critic. Furthermore, this is a way to introduce you to speech analysis.

**Learning outcomes**

As a result of completing the TedTalk Critique assignment, you will be able to identify key elements present in public speaking and analyze why the speaker opted for implementing such elements into their speech.

**Instructions**

* Please choose one of the following videos and select one that you find to be interesting:
  + “Get comfortable with being uncomfortable” by Luvvie Ajayi Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QijH4UAqGD8>

* + “SpaceX’s supersized starship rocket and the future of galactic exploration” by Jennifer Heldmann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li7PsYiwxVc>

* + “How to sound smart in your TEDx Talk” by Will Stephen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8S0FDjFBj8o>
  + “Immigration world poverty and gumballs” by Roy Beck <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCcFNL7EmwY&t=14s>
* Observe, identify, and analyze the speech and answer the questions below.
* You must answer at least 12 of the questions below. Questions with an asterisks \* are required to answer. You are welcome to answer all questions if you would like.
* You are also welcome to watch the speech multiple times in case you cannot answer the questions in one take.
* Keep in mind that some of the questions might not apply to your speaker and/or speech, if so please write N/A as the answer.

Questions

1. What is the speaker’s name and what topic are they talking about?
2. What is the purpose of the speaker?\* (Informative, persuasive, or entertainment)
3. Does the speaker show speech apprehension? If yes, how? If no, why not?
4. Is the speaker mindful of their audience? How?
5. Is the audience actively listening? How can you tell?
6. Do you see an organizational pattern? Which one?
7. Can you see an attention getter at the beginning of their speech? If yes, what was it?\*
8. What does the speaker talk about in their body? What are the main points?
9. Does the speaker finish their speech with a clincher? If yes, what do they say?
10. How does the speaker use vivid language to bring their stories to life? What specific words do they use?
11. Think about their voice (paraverbal language). Does the speaker play with the way they say the words? Can you think of a specific moment that they changed their voice?\*
12. Think about their gestures. Do the gestures reinforce their message? Please write down a moment that their gestures complemented their words.\*
13. How does the speaker engage the audience? What verbal and nonverbal elements the speaker uses? Please write one or more examples.
14. Thinking back on all the questions you just answered. How did all those elements combined contribute to their purpose?\*
15. What characteristics that you observed makes you think that speaker is a good public speaker?
16. If you could tell the speaker something to improve on, what would it be?\*
17. Please list two or more characteristics that you would like to implement in your own speech.\*