Formal Written Critique (100 points)

**Directions:** Attend a speech presentation on campus, throughout the community, or locate one online through YouTube, TED Talks, etc. The speech must be at least 10 minutes in length (or very close to 10 minutes in length); a longer speech is fine, but a speech significantly shorter than 10 minutes is unacceptable. It can be given from a famous person (e.g., politician, celebrity, sports figure, etc.) or a local individual to a real audience. The speech may NOT be from a movie, television, or play.

Using your audience feedback form as a guideline, critique the person’s speech.

1. **Describe and evaluate the introduction.** Is there an effective attention-getting device? What made it effective or ineffective? What might have worked better? Was the thesis clear? What was it? Was the preview of main points discussed clearly? How might this introduction been improved?

2. **Describe and evaluate the supporting materials.** What kinds of sources were used? Did the person make claims with no evidence to back-up these claims? Did the person orally footnote any specific sources? Were the oral footnotes clear? What would have made them clearer? What were the main points? Were any visual aids used? Would visual aids have made the presentation better? How?

3. **Describe and evaluate the speech organization.** Was it easy or difficult to follow the speech? Was there a clear structure to follow? Why? How much rehearsal or preparation appears to have been put into the speech? Did the person use transitional statements? What would have made the organization better?

4. **Describe and evaluate the conclusion/summary.** Was there a clear review of main points? Did s/he have a closing device? How was the energy level throughout the speech? What would have made the conclusion/summary better?

5. **Describe and evaluate the delivery.** How would you describe the speaker’s eye contact with the audience? Use of voice? Did the person read extensively from notes or cards? Was that distracting or not? How were gestures used? Were they “rehearsed” gestures? Did they seem natural? What about the speaker was interesting or not interesting? What would have improved the delivery?

**Your essay should:** (1) have an introduction; (2) be free of spelling, punctuation, and typographical errors; (3) have a conclusion; and (4) identify the specific link (i.e., URL address) for the person’s speech in case I wish to watch it (i.e., IF you used an online speech to evaluate). Essays should be 3-5 pages (double-spaced, normal style and size font, and normal margins); do not provide a title page for this assignment. This assignment is due by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 21. All formal written critiques must be submitted electronically on Canvas. Any formal written critiques submitted as an email attachment or by hard-copy will NOT be accepted or graded. Students who fail to submit the formal written critique on Canvas by the due date and time will receive a zero on this assignment—no exceptions. Refer to the syllabus regarding this policy.