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Master in Numerical Methods for Engineering  
Communication Skills 1  
Final Assignment - Critical Review  
"Modelling Fluvial Processes Using the Finite Volume Method"  
Lecturer: Ernest Blade

For our final assignment for Communication Skills 1 we were asked by our teachers to evaluate one of the seminars we attended. The assignment consisted of, after attending said seminar, give our subjective opinion of how the invited lecturer did the presentation. Not regarding the content per se, but the oral presentation given.

In general terms, we can address these overall specific points in order to evaluate an oral presentation successfully: level of confidence of the speaker, quality of the information presented, determine the level of clarity, and last determine the overall level of organization.

First of all, determine the confidence of the speaker. After attending this seminar and reviewing the video for a second time the least to say about the speaker is he was very confident. Not once during the presentation could we see him nervous or stutter, during the whole hour always feeling really comfortable speaking to a full room. Constantly making eye contact, never forgetting the audience, and even inviting the audience to interact with him or interrupt him in order to ask questions or clarify matters. Regardless, no questions or interactions were made during the presentation. If I can speak for myself this presenter did get my attention.

As for the quality of the information presented we can take into account several factors. The information was complete, and the speakers presentation was well supported by his slides. Nevertheless, he knew he was talking about a complicated subject so a few very specific points were jumped through. The speaker saw he was talking to an inexperienced audience in the matter, took action and made it easier and more interesting for us: he adapted to change. He provided us with enough detail as to understand the presentation, but not too many or unnecessary ones as to disinterest the audience.

The level of clarity of the information provided by the speaker was enough. Although he isnt able to manage English to perfection, he can

talk well enough as for the audience very clearly understand his presentation and conclusions. All of his information was very well supported by slides which were very clear, although if I might say a couple of mistakes that can be overseen if youd want: one of the slides has a spelling mistake (making reference to him not having a perfect dominion of English, rather just enough) and another slide had a phrase written in Spanish (while the whole presentation was in English). As I said, he was as clear as he could and vocabulary was easy enough for him to state his work and for us as an audience to understand clearly. Also, the lecturer did not have a perfect fluency yet good enough as to carry out the presentation.

The level of organization of the presentation was very good. The seminar had a determined and easy to follow structure. The speaker explained to us some theory first, explained it to us using visual aids and making simplified examples, and at last stating some real life cases. All of it always accompanied by very well designed slides (understandable to say the least). Overall, it was a very good presentation: the speaker did very good and just missed the perfect because of the very noticeable language barrier.