ENSL B21 Presentation #1

E. Pierce

Fall 2012

Group Skit on Accuracy or Inaccuracy of First Impressions

Brief summary of assignment: You will work with your group of 3-4 people to create and present a skit (short drama) in front of the class showing whether first impressions are accurate or inaccurate. The actual content of your skit is completely you and your group’s decision. Just be sure that your skit sends either one of two messages to the audience: (1) First impressions are generally accurate OR (2) First impressions are generally inaccurate.

Parts of the Project: The following are the various parts of this project. At your first group meeting, divide the parts among your group members. Try to make sure that each person has an equivalent amount of work. If a group member is absent, that person receives whatever task is remaining after the other group members have chosen their parts. Each person will receive both an individual grade for his/her part as well as a group grade.

1. The beginning step is to decide if the skit will portray first impressions as accurate or

inaccurate.

1. Next, decide the content of your skit. In other words, where will it take place? Who

will be the characters? (NOTE: Everyone in the group must play a part.) Will you have a narrator, meaning a person who explains to the audience what is happening in the skit while it is occurring? How will the skit show a first impression, and how will the skit later confirm that this impression was, indeed, accurate OR was actually inaccurate? When presented, your total skit should last 5-8 minutes. You do not need to memorize your lines, but you should be familiar enough with your part that you can say it smoothly and with feeling.

1. After the decisions about the skit have been made, the skit itself needs to be written

out in a format that everyone in the group can follow. The following is a brief example of how part of the skit might look (this skit shows the inaccuracy of first impressions):

Narrator: Mary is a very active college student who wants to join the math club, but she is not sure if she will fit in with the other club members. She decides to attend the first meeting of the math club for the fall semester.

Mary (quietly to herself as she walks in the door of the meeting): I hope this is a good idea. I don’t even know a single person!

Joe (walking up to Mary): Hi, how can I help you? Are you sure you’re in the right place?

Mary: Well, I’m looking for the math club.

Joe (condescendingly): Uh, well, uh…this is the right spot, but we only accept people who can do high-level math.

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Etc., etc., etc.

(As you might guess, Mary had a bad impression from the above interaction.)

Narrator: Later in the semester, Mary started having problems in her intermediate algebra class. Her grade dropped from a “B” to a “D.” One day as she walked across campus, she ran into Joe.

Joe: Hey, didn’t you visit our math club one time?

Mary (remembering how arrogant Joe had been): I guess I did, but it was a long time ago.

Joe: You know, if you need any help in math, all of our club members are willing to tutor.

Mary (her face brightening): Really? I could sure use some assistance in algebra.

Etc., etc., etc.

(As you can see, Mary’s first impression of Joe and his math club was not completely accurate…he’s not such a bad guy, and the math club isn’t so snobbish after all!)

The above skit is just a shortened version of what each group will enact. You can choose one person to write the skit for the group, or the whole group can write it together.

1. Practice the skit repeatedly as a group, adding in voice intonation, clear pronunciation, facial expressions, and body gestures to make your presentation as realistic and natural-sounding as possible.

\*NOTE: You and your group will have several meetings during class to work on the various parts of your skit. However, depending on how prepared your group feels before the actual day of presenting, you and your group may want to arrange one or more meetings outside of class in order to be ready to perform.

HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED:

1. Style of presentation (clear volume and pronunciation, effective facial expressions and hand gestures): 40 pts.
2. Evidence of preparation for part: 20 pts.
3. Skit straightforwardly demonstrates accuracy or inaccuracy of first impressions: 20 pts.
4. Group grade: 20 pts.