Conference Call Live Speech

Background and Introduction:

The physical location of a speech may affect your delivery. Generally, an indoor room provides the most comfortable situation, but what happens when you are not in the same room as your audience?

In this activity we will explore the differences between a conference call and a live speech. For the purposes of this assignment, Skype will be used to mock a conference call. In your class, form groups of four. Two group members will be presenting a speech using Skype and the other two group members will present another speech in the classroom physical setting. After the presentations, you will discuss the differences between a mock conference call and a live speech.

Materials needed for class:
1. Laptop or smartphone with internet access and a working camera

General Directions:
1. Form groups of four. Make sure that two people in your group have access to laptop, desktop or smartphone with at working camera. Within the group of four, form a subgroup by pairing up with one student to write and deliver a speech.
2. With your subgroup, create a Skype account by visiting www.skype.com. (Please create a free account.)
3. Exchange Skype account names with the other two group members.
4. During class, your instructor will give you and your classmate time to write a three-minute speech on an assigned topic.
5. After writing the speech, decide which subgroup will present in the classroom and which will present via Skype.
6. After deciding how your subgroups will present, pick a date and time to do the Skype conference call. Please keep in mind that the subgroup using Skype will need to present the speech using one computer and the subgroup viewing the Skype speech will also view it from one computer.

Live Speech Directions:
1. After you and your partner finish writing your speech, deliver the speech in front of the two other group members.
2. For the two group members listening to the speech, fill out the questions on the next page.

Conference Call Directions:
1. Sign on to Skype.
2. Make sure your other two group members are signed on as well.
3. Make a video call to your other two group members.
4. Once you have a solid connection, present the speech to your two other group members.
5. For the two group members listening to the speech, fill out the questions on the next page.
Questions

1. How are conference calls and live speeches different?

2. What nonverbal delivery differences did you notice between your speech and your group members’ speech?

3. What verbal delivery differences did you notice between your speech and your group members’ speech?

4. How would you make your presentation more effective?