

Public Speaking Preparation Assignment - Assessing a Political Figure

Purpose: In preparation for your presentations, you are first going to watch an example of a speech in order to determine effective practices. It is also meant to serve as a reflection of practices with which you are comfortable as a public speaker.

Format: First, watch this video of Belgian Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Guy Verhofstadt & [his commentary on Aleppo](#). Write a 3-4 page, double-spaced assessment of what he does that is effective. Your comments should address both content & style. Consider these questions to guide your assessment:

- What was his point? Were you convinced? What did he say that did/did not convince you?
- Could he have made his point better? How so? Or did he maximize his position(s)? In what way?
- Did his content have structure? If you have to summarize this video for a friend not in this class, would you re-structure his argument or mimic his? Why?
- Did the speaker have any body language that you found distracting or impactful? What were they & what did they convey to you?
- How would you characterize the tone of his speech? What impact, if any, did it have in persuading you?
- Did this example solicit an emotional response from you? What was that response & when did it occur?
- How might his style be different if he was having coffee with a colleague from work? An interview with a journalist? A dinner date with his partner? What specifically are practices that work solely in the context of the European Parliament debate?
- Indicate one strong practice from this example of public speaking. Indicate one practice that could be improved