Gallery Walk

Instructional goals of this activity:

As a speaker, you’ll get some feedback from your audience, learning how to adapt your speech to make it better adapted to the task of persuading an opposition audience. You’ll also get a chance to practice the delivery of your speech before your performance is graded. As audience members, you’ll learn to critique persuasive speeches, recognizing strengths and weaknesses in organization and invention.

Things needed for this activity:

- Post-it notes

Description of the activity:

On the day you are scheduled to speak in the gallery walk activity, you will come to class with your speech outline printed in 16 pt. font. After moving all the chairs into the hallway or the center of the room, the students speaking on that day will tape the speech outlines on the wall around the classroom, and stand by the outline ready to give their speeches. The rest of the class will divide themselves two to an outline, and the speakers will then present their speeches to their two audience members. After the speech, for approximately 6 minutes, the audience members critique the speeches, providing suggestions for improvement both orally, and in written form on “post-it” notes that they affix to the speech outlines. The post-it notes will serve as reminders to the speakers about changes they should make when they take their outlines home with them. (E.g. Reaching out to place a yellow post-it note toward the top of the outline with the words “relevance of intro?” written on it, a student says “You may think about developing a new introductory story; the one that you have now is very interesting, but it doesn’t directly relate to your thesis.”)

After 12 minutes, the TA will announce a shift, and each two-person audience group will move to the next outline to their right. The process then begins again. This is repeated so that each speaker has a chance to give their speech three times, and has a total of 6 critics.