The applied speech was one of the more interesting speeches I had to give for this class. I get to enjoy a lot of public speaking as an ambassador for Itineris, but there wasn’t really anything that I could use as a “speech”. I also work at a music store, but there’s nothing there that I could exactly make into a speech either. So I chose to use a math lesson I had prepared for my Intro to teaching class. I didn’t exactly prepare this speech like I should have, so it was mostly winged, but it came out a lot better than I had expected. In real life, if I had been teaching a math class, it would’ve been a poor decision to go in unprepared, but that’s really because this is the field of a teacher. In some cases an applied speech might have to be “prepared” the day it’s due.

I noticed a few movements of mine that I should work on. Having the marker in my hand, I fiddled with it quite a bit when I wasn’t actually using it. This is why it’s good to have your hands free, so that you can use them for gestures as opposed to casual twiddling with objects, as this can get distracting. I also have the tendency to either pace or rock while I speak; depending on if I’m moving or standing still. Last thing was that it was difficult to face the audience while I was also trying to write on the board.

On the plus side of things, I was able to engage the audience pretty thoroughly. I even pulled a volunteer from the audience. Using a hands-on lesson gave a great deal of emphasis to my lesson, it’s easy to follow and understand. And thankfully, the math was at an easy enough level that my audience was able to follow along without getting too deep into any instruction. Overall I think the lesson went pretty well.