

Note  
the MLA  
formatting.

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Title is creative, and all words over 3 letters capitalized.

### The Power of Few Words

In his speech “Nature. Beauty. Gratitude.” Louie Schwartzberg entrances his audience’s emotions, effectively drawing readers in to listen and respond through his use of visual pictures set to effective narration, and through his use of broadening perspectives—from himself to others and finally to his audience members. Early in his speech, Schwartzberg explains that he is a time-lapse photographer, and therefore he strategically uses visual images and pictures throughout his speech, to bring his visually adept listeners in. As he, through the voice of an elderly man, is revealing various aspects of simple nature that people often take for granted, clouds and weather are described in simplistic beauty, particularly because “this day, right now, has unique weather, maybe a kind that will never exactly in that form come again” (6:45). The audience is further urged to appreciate “[the] formation of clouds in the sky [that] will never the same as it is right [then]” and they are asked to “open [their] eyes [and] [l]ook at that” (6:45). Although the message is thought provoking, as Schwartzberg delivers it through words, it is not the words themselves, but rather the *pictures* shown in the background screen that are significant to enhance and emphasize his message. The words utilized are not particularly fancy as the anomaly of unique weather is described, and this is likely on purpose. Listeners do not have to wrack their brains to focus on complex words, but rather are drawn to the swirling, majestic photos of clouds, sunrises, and sunsets, immediately connecting the words’ message to something concrete—the picture of the weather. Others wanting to point out the uniqueness of

TS

CX

CD

CM x3+

day-to-day weather may point to scientific facts and minute studies of meteorologist findings, but Schwartzberg, an artistic photographer himself, chooses visuals and pictures as his primary focus. Ultimately, this is most effective, as his audience, made primarily of members who require visual stimulation, have something beautiful with which to connect new ideas presented, and thus, Schwartzberg's ideas are immediately believable.

An additional way that Schwartzberg effectively engages his audience is through his methodical approach of focus—he focuses on himself first, then provides perspectives of others, and then makes an application to the audience. Right from the start, Schwartzberg opens with an anecdote, explaining that he is poor and that he poured his heart, mind, time, and monetary resources into a hobby that allowed and continues to allow him to appreciate and see the world in intricate ways: time-lapse photography. Readers may or may not connect to his life-story, but his abundance of pathos in his “look-at-me-you-too-can-be-happy-despite-obstacles” story at least catches the audience's interest right from the start. Additionally, he concludes his speech, making sure to encourage listeners to “[l]et the gratefulness overflow into blessing all around [them], [making] it [a] really . . . good day” (8:20). However, it is the middle pieces of the speech, in which Schwartzberg camps out for the majority of “his” TED Talk, that he allows other individuals to provide their own perspectives of happiness and gratitude. He begins with a short camera shot of an innocent young girl encouraging listeners to find the prettier, less mundane things in life. He then moves to the perspective of a wise, kind, elderly man. This man shows that every single aspect of life, from the natural world to the hearts and souls of individuals, is precious. ~~Ultimately, he wants his listeners to realize that life is meant to be highly valued and treasured.~~ For this unnamed man, life is “not just another day. It's the one day that is given to you today. It's given to you. It's a gift. It's the only gift that you have right now,

transition  
to next  
chunk

CX

Although I generally encourage you to avoid too much summary, as this takes away from your focus on your CD and CM, in some special cases, like here, extra CM is needed. I chose to focus on varying perspectives and, because I did, I need to mention, at least in brief, each perspective. It is not until the blue highlighted word “however,” that the meat of my CX picks up. You can see where the major focus of commentary here is to zero in on what this man says, since this is the particular key quotation/ CD I selected.

And then, for the commentary, because I set things up with intention in my CX, I can discuss ALL perspectives in an analytical/ commentary fashion).

This detail is superfluous, and, if included here, would only make portions of my CM to follow repetitive. All good writers should consider their own writing and revise for the best polished versions of their writing possible.

CD

and the only appropriate response is gratefulness” (4:35). Certainly, Schwartzberg could have presented a “traditional” TED-Talk, in which he paced the flow for 18-20 minutes as bright cameras zoomed on him, his facial expressions, and his body language, and as his words ran smoothly and cleanly from his lips for the full duration of the time. However, despite the fact that his speech is nearly ten minutes, Schwartzberg himself only speaks for three minutes of it, allowing those unique perspectives from other individuals—individuals we are more likely to respect because of their unique walks of life. The girl, for instance, is young enough to not be tainted by the toxicity of fallen society, and has not yet fallen prey to the lie that the best enjoyment is found through a consumer mentality. Similarly, the elderly man has spent some good 70 to 80 years experiencing life to conclude, in the end, and much like Solomon in the Bible, that “chasing after wind” is vanity and that people should learn to value, cherish, and appreciate each and every moment and facet of the life given to them, doing so in a way that is beneficial and positively impactful to the world around them. Because of the “credentials” of such individuals (the innocence of the first, and the sage-experiences of the latter), listeners are captivated by the overall message, and Schwartzberg has succeeded in convincing audience members to think about life with beautiful awe and wonder. Indeed, it is not Schwartzberg’s words that carry his message, but the striking visual aids and the perspective of others that uplift his words and encourage our hearts to seek out the beauty in the fine details of life.

CM x3+

Why so long??? As you know, I only require 3 sentences of CM (commentary) at the freshmen level (and, if written well, with deep analysis and style, you can still achieve an A with these few sentences). I did not feel like my thought, with just three sentences, was fully complete. Just prior, in my CX, and especially my CM, I've listed many details of varying perspectives. Since I listed them, each of them deserves the fair chance to be analyzed fully—and here they are.

Always strive to make full, complete, satisfying commentary, even if means writing more than your standard three sentences.

CS