



When Jeffrey Zaslow, co-author of *The Last Lecture* visited Schoolcraft College as part of a Page Turners' event, I took my students even though his presentation "had nothing to do with the class."

As someone who is good with language, I can easily come up with justifications for any activity to which I take my students. However, I no longer try. Being exposed to outstanding speakers—whether or not they are directly covering the topic of our specific research—is valuable in its own right.

After the presentation, several students were disappointed that his books had sold out. They then rushed to the bookstore across the street to buy copies for him to sign.

Lectures/Presentations

When attending a lecture or presentation, we learn more than the specific subject matter. We can learn about presentation techniques, research strategies, and so forth.

Even a bad presentation can be a valuable learning tool. Once, my class attended a very poor presentation. At the next class session, we spent time discussing what not to do in front of an audience.

Assignment

Attend a presentation or lecture sponsored by a campus group.

1. Provide a summary of the presentation.
2. Then reflect on what you learned during the presentation will make you a better scholar. (Please note: The second part of this assignment is not asking you about the specific academic content of what you heard.)

