

Communication Skills

ASSIGNMENT # 3: Critical Review
Numerical Analysis of Factors of Safety and Probabilities of Failure in
Geotechnical Engineering, by D.V. Griffiths

One of my favourite seminars was *Numerical Analysis of Factors of Safety and Probabilities of Failure in Geotechnical Engineering* a speak about the "factor of safety" while studying stability problems in Geotechnics.

First of all, Dr. Griffiths started his speech with a joke related to his university symbol, which was a donkey. It seems not to be important, although it is a very useful technique start a speech reaching a relaxed atmosphere. In addition, his posture and tone of voice were kind. He kept the same velocity while talking, changing his tone while necessary to keep the audience concentrated.

Regarding to contents, it was very specific. As a geotechnical connoisseur I was able to understand the speech and the different topics and parameters which were mentioned during the speech. However, some people lost track of the conversation because some aspects of geotechnical variables were not explain. If speech were not prepared for experienced people, it should have been less complicated and sophisticated.

With respect to graphical presentations, it was in line with the oral presentation and was a great help to round the speech. Slides were not overcrowded of text and images. This is very important because it transmitted calm and continuity to the speech. An overcrowded slide tends to distract people and causes fatigue.

I certainly would recommend this speech to those experienced people on geotechnics who want to learn how to deal with stability problems. A lot of things about factor of safety and probability of failure will be learnt, but also their differences.

It is recommended to be aware of statistics and probability, because some aspects will be mentioned during the speech.

To end up this review, I would want to express my gratitude to Dr. Griffiths for coming and make this speech. As a connoisseur of geological engineering, it was very interesting and I was able to learn a lot about the topic.