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Sample of a Persuasive Speech Outline

Specific Speech Goal: I want my audience members to read to their own or someone else's children.

Introduction

I. A recent campaign encouraged children to read using the enticing slogan: Reading is FUNdamental. How many of you consider reading fun?

II. I do consider reading fun. I have been a voracious reader my whole life. In fact I cannot remember when I didn't know how to read. For this reason I read to my daughter and my grandson from the time they were born. We started with cloth children's books so that their drool didn't make the words run and graduated to Dr. Seuss's Fox in Sox and other fun books.

(Visual aid use here: Show Dr. Seuss book and one of the cloth books.)

III. One reason I didn't start this speech with questions about whether or not you were read to as a child is this: I am appalled that many children go into the first grade NEVER having had a book read to them. I don't want a show of hands, but I want you to answer these two questions in your own mind: Did anyone ever read to me? Do I read to my children?

Thesis Statement: I want parents and grandparents to read to their children and grandchildren because reading is the underlying foundation for much learning that children do, because reading teaches children to think, and because reading is a skill that can be utilized throughout children's whole lives both in their careers and for their pleasure.

Body

I. Reading is the basis for learning how to do any other skill.

A. Read the instructions for any job or skill.

1. After reading instructions, follow the instructions.

B. Read about any process.

1. Reading about any process no matter how complex can help us understand the process.

C. Read for personal information or research.

Section Transition: Now that you understand that reading is the basis for learning how to do anything else, let's look at the second reason that children need to be read to which is that reading teaches children to think.

II. Reading allows the reader to mull over all viewpoints besides his/her own, think about a topic and make an informed decision.

A. Use "Talk Aloud" to get children to talk about books.

1. Talk with children about the books you are reading to them.

2. Tell them and get them to tell you what's on the page.
 3. Help them to understand the patterns of the words making up sentences and sentences making up paragraphs.
- B. Use "Think Aloud" to get children to think.
1. Talk to the child about what you were thinking as you read a story.
 2. Ask the child to tell you what s/he was thinking when you read the story.
- C. Turn off the television and read a book.
1. Television doesn't teach thinking skills.
 2. Reading teaches thinking skills.

Section Transition: Now that you understand that reading can help children learn to think, let's look at the last reason that I want you to read to your children and grandchildren which is because reading is a skill that can be used a lifetime.

- III. Reading will be needed the whole of a person's life.
- A. All of our jobs require reading of one kind or another.
1. New technology
 2. Keeping up with benefits, insurance, etc.
- B. Reading for pleasure is one of life's great joys.
1. Daily newspapers
 2. Magazines
 3. Novels/short stories/poetry

Conclusion

- I. I hope that I have helped you understand today that not only is reading FUNdamental, (READ PART OF *HOP ON POP*) but it is also fundamental to success.
- II. Please go home and read a book to a child today...and tonight...and tomorrow...and tomorrow night.....!!

Sources

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