

EXAMPLE FOR DISCUSSION: Informative Speech

Introduction

- I. **(Attention)** Imagine that you and your friend are walking through the woods, one sunny afternoon in the fall, when the ground is covered by leaves. All of a sudden, your friend accidentally steps on a snake and gets bitten.
- II. **(Need)** Your friend's chances of survival would depend on your knowledge on how to react promptly and take proper measures in such a situation.
- III. **(Authority)** I have done some research on this matter. For a few years, I lived in a town where situations like these occurred frequently.
- IV. **(Central Idea)** Today I am going to inform you about three common poisonous snakes seen in our country and also explain to you about the effects of snake venom on the human body and how to administer first aid in the event of a snake bite.

Body

- I. First, I am going to give you some information about three of the common poisonous snakes seen in the U.S. (They are the Rattlesnake, the Cottonmouth, and the Copperhead.)
 - A. **Rattlesnake**—most widely distributed.
 1. William Pinkston: responsible for more deaths in this country.
 2. Western diamondback found from Texas to eastern California.
 - A. **Copperhead**—seen in woodlands of Florida all the way up to Massachusetts.
 - B. **Cottonmouth**—found in swamps and lakes.
 1. Before striking, it opens its mouth wide to reveal its white interior.
 2. That is how it got its name.
- I. Next, I am going to explain to you about the effects of snake venom on the human body.
 - A. **Haemotoxic.**
 1. Destroys blood vessels and red blood cells.
 2. Deadly and fatal to the victim.
 - A. **Neurotoxic.**
 1. Affects the Optic nerves in the eyes causing blindness.
 2. Affects the nerves controlling the respiratory muscles—causing suffocation and eventually leading to death if left untreated.
- I. Finally, I am going to explain about **how to administer first aid** in the event of a snake bite. (From Snyder, First Aid for Health Emergencies):
 - A. Immobilize the bite area in a position slightly lower than the heart.
 - B. Apply a flat constricting band 2-4 inches above the bite.
 - C. With a sterile scalpel or knife, make one incision that connects both the fang marks.

- D. Squeeze venom gently from the incision with the fingers for 30 minutes.
- E. Get the victim to the hospital as quickly as possible.

Conclusion

- I. **(Summary)** So, I have now given you some information about three common poisonous snakes in the U.S. I have also explained to you about the effects of snake venom on the human body and how to administer first aid in the event of a snake bite.
- II. **(“Zing”)** My cousin Jenny and her boyfriend Tom were walking by the side of a lake one morning, when all of a sudden Jenny got bitten by a snake. Tom panicked, not knowing what to do. By the time they reached the hospital, it was too late. If only Tom had known what to do, my cousin would have been alive today.
- III. Knowing the effects of snake venom and the proper measures to be taken in the event of a snakebite could probably save yours or someone else’s life.

Bibliography

Book: Hafen, Brent Q. First Aid for Health Emergencies. New York: West Publishing Company, 1977.

Book: Pinkston, William S., Jr. Biology for Christian Schools. Greenville, South Carolina: Bob Jones University Press, Inc., 1980.