**Informative Speech Outline**

**Name:** Hong Zhang

**Topic:** The Chinese Animal Zodiac (sheng xiao生肖)

**Purpose:** To share the history and significance of the Chinese Zodiac

**Specific purpose:** To know Chinese culture

**Thesis:** what is Chinese Zodiac?

**Introduction:**

**Ⅰ. Attention grabber:** Chinese believes that your personality traits, your fortune, even your life are connected with an animal.

**Ⅱ. Reveal & relate topic:** the definition of Chinese Zodiac

**Ⅲ. Credibility:** Chinese people use it to analysis people’s temperament and try to control their future.

**Ⅳ. Preview:** its origin, different animal signs’ meaning and its roles.

**Body**

**Ⅰ. Main point 1:** The origin of Chinese Zodiac

1. **Sub-point 1:** Zhang Binlun regards Chinese zodiac originated from the adoration and veneration of animals during prehistoric times.
2. **Sub-point 2:** Legend- the story explains how the 12 animals were chosen for the calendar.

**Transition sentence:** In the beginning, ancient Chinese people use animals just to date the years. One day, these animals are given other meanings through a book named Yi Jing (I Ching), or “Book of Changes.”

**Ⅱ. Main point 2:** Meanings of 12 Zodiac Signs

1. **Sub-point 1:**  Zodiac signs mean our original inherent temperament.
2. **Sub-point 2:** Meanings and Significance
3. **Sub-point 3:** Strengths and Weaknesses

**Transition sentence:** if you think Chinese zodiac is useless knowledge, you will be wrong. In fact, Chinese people use it in all aspect of their life.

**Ⅲ. Main point 3:** the roles of Chinese Zodiac

1. **Sub-point 1:** to understand yourself and your friends
2. **Sub-point 2:** to guess one person’s age
3. **Sub-point 3:** to give your friends zodiac gifts as good luck & happiness

**Transition sentence: In short, Chinese zodiac is a very important part of traditional Chinese culture.**

**Conclusion:**

**Ⅰ. Summary:** At first, ancient Chinese people used animals to date the years. Then Yi Jing let it become a predictive science. In the later 3000 years, Chinese people accept this theory and use it in their life, even affect their life styles.

**Ⅱ. Closing:** If you want to understand China, know Chinese culture, you should learn it.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_zodiac>

<http://www.chinesezodiac.com/chineseastrology.php>

<http://www.chinaspree.com/china-tour-chinese-zodiac.aspx>

<http://wenhua.youth.cn/mins/sx/200907/t20090728_969189_1.htm>

<http://chineseculture.about.com/od/chinesesuperstitions/a/Chinesezodiac.htm>

Chinese Astrology Exploring the Eastern Zodiac