

NAME: Jester Lumos

VISUAL AID: Audience copies of manuscript, candlelight

EXCITE

On November 17th, 1875, the first celebration was held to honor Edgar Allan Poe's remains being relocated from his neglected cenotaph to his current memorial monument. This November 17th, the 150th anniversary, about one year later for every piece he wrote in life, I carry that flame. I invite you all to follow along as I read, and by the last line, you should all know what to say. (unrelated matters)

SPEECH TITLE: Poe endures!

**once upon a midnight, eerie,
a man discovered, tattered, weary,
mutters strangely from the trenches,
he stumbles, and his gut he clenches as no man ever clenched before!
who is this man who writhes in horror?** (high-impact image)

**why it was Poe, I could've sworn!
it was Poe, as rainfall drenches!
as if a knock upon a door, a face emerged 'midst foul stenches,**

LAUNCH

we celebrate, for Poe endures! (specific purpose)

TRANSITION

what circumstance did bring him here? (tie in previous)

(overview of main points:)

what character could be endeared (honorable characteristics/point 1)
to clench, and writhe, and mutter so?

what feats of his could ever know a life beyond the death and gore?
(accomplishments/point 2)

how does this man today endure? (impact/point 3)

RELATE

'twas his foe, who he abhorred,
'twas his foe, who made it so!
"tell us this, make us know! tell us of the man deplored!"
you yearn to learn how Poe endures! (reason for listening)

HONOR (MAIN POINTS)

TRANSITION AND HIGH-IMPACT TECHNIQUE

you've met the ghost of Edgar Allan
Poe, the ghost of tragic talent, (tie-in intro and audience preconceptions)
"that which you mistake for madness,
is but sensory acuteness" (high-impact reference) like nothing you've been
told before!
unlike the drunken, gambling langor,
like nothing you've been told before! (teases honorable characteristics)

HONORABLE CHARACTERISTICS (POINT 1)

for Poe was not a hopeless bore,
nor sick with mad nonsenses,
no troubling, troubled alcoholic,
no reflection of his diabolic orators of dark expenses—
but always writing, writing more, in writing he dispenses:
love and passion, and something more,
Poe dispenses, "Art endures!" (love, passion, and the endurance to never stop
writing as hard as it got)

TRANSITION AND HIGH-IMPACT TECHNIQUE

upon that art, he staked his life—
upon that art, he fought and died! (tie in previous point)

he stayed in richmond one july,
for a magazine in '49, and when he left for baltimore,
blue as death, and deathly poor,
a week he wandered, lost and weary—
nearly dead, but only nearly,
'til Poe was found in baltimore! (high impact image)

**what happened next, I must delay,
for accomplishments before (signal transition to accomplishments)
his cryptic death that dreadful day—
that damned day in baltimore, come seventh of Octo'er!**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**stay your intrigue, drink the tension
know of Poe, not dark obsessions
and know the foe who dimmed his glory,
and sang his lies in euology, of drink and drugs and nothing more
for by his slander, Poe endures!**

**as for his writings, seven score: (over 140 known works)
risen loves and shortened stories, reclusive sleuths and gothic horror—
(credited for detective stories, gothic horror, risen and reburied women, and the
short story)
Poe fathered these and many more,
and by their furies, he endures.**

TRANSITION AND HIGH-IMPACT TECHNIQUE

**you've heard the words he churned before
that fateful night in baltimore; (tie in previous)
so what occurred that fateful night—
October third in baltimore? (signal impact of mysterious death)**

**"repulsive! haggard!" his witness wrote
"a stained and faded corded coat,
shoes worn, a hat of straw,
slack pantaloons, too full to be his own!"
by no attempt could he be wakened;
his eyes lie "lusterless and vacant" as no eyes ever lie before,
that fateful night in baltimore. (high-impact image)**

IMPACT

four days more, he twitched and swore,

**then on his deathbed he did scorn,
"Reynolds!" and nothing more.
that seventh of Octo'er.** (context of his mysterious death)

**Only this, yet Poe endures
in stephen king and sherlock holmes,
ray bradbury and eldritch horror;** (better known genres and authors he inspired)
in twisted tales and whispered whims of that night in baltimore, (the enduring mystery of his death)
and in every yank he set upon the starving artist's course, (and the concept of writing as a profession in America)
in these and more, "Poe endures!"

REITERATE
TRANSITION
as with all things, this tale must end

SPECIFIC PURPOSE RESTATES
**though as with every word he penned,
your mind, you'll find, persists him still.**

CLARIFYING SUMMARY
six thousand dollars for the till—one hundred forty works or more, (endured in his craft)
not one a love did he not mourn, (endured unimaginable grief)
quoth our writers (endures in American literature), **"Poe endures!"**

ENERGIZE
HIGH-IMPACT TECHNIQUE
**for he was no man to be deplored,
no man of evil will,
"write for him!" I thus implore, "think not of time or skill!"
say with me now the ancient lore:** (high-impact)
say with me, "Poe endures!" (topic-related definite final statement)

References

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Tell-Tale Heart." *The Pioneer*, 1843.

Snodgrass, Dr. Joseph Evans. "The Facts of Poe's Death and Burial." *Beadle's Monthly*, 3 May 1867.

INTELLECTUAL STANDARD: (see pg. 65-67 and the critical thinking guide) Review your rough draft. Ask yourself some of the questions related to the intellectual standards on pg. 65-67. Look for opportunities to improve your speech. When you come across a question that prompts changes (you could also compose your own question related to the standard), make the changes in your draft and describe the changes here.

1. Name of standard: **Interesting**
2. Question: **Is the speech written in a way that will get and hold the audience's attention?**
3. Describe what you noticed in your rough draft and the specific changes you made to improve your speech. **My rough draft was very barebones, and the content alone is difficult to connect to a modern audience, but I hope the poetic form** (specific change) **will make it interesting enough to properly honor Poe's legacy and encourage listeners to look into his work further independently.**