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Informative Speech Outline

Topic: Mid-Autumn Festival/Mooncake Festival

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: To educate the audience on what is typically done to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Introduction

- I. Attention Getter/Connect to Audience: In Europe, the full moon is commonly associated with the werewolf, but in Chinese culture, it is commonly associated with the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival, or the Mooncake Festival.
- II. Credibility: Growing up in a Filipino-Chinese household, my family observed several cultural celebrations, including the Mid-Autumn Festival.
- III. Thesis: The Mid-Autumn Festival is a popular harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture.
- IV. Preview: In this speech I will be telling you about the different ways Chinese people all over the world celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Body

- I. Main Point #1: According to Wikipedia, the Mid-Autumn Festival is a harvest festival celebrated to commemorate the end of the autumn harvest.

- A. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunar calendar, and there is often a full moon on that day.
- B. This year, the Mid-Autumn Festival falls on September 17th.
- C. It traces its roots all the way back to 3000 years ago, and has similar counterparts in other East Asian countries, such as Korea and Japan.
- D. It is a very important holiday in Chinese culture, and its popularity rivals that of the Chinese New Year.

Transition: Now that you know the background behind the Mid-Autumn Festival, I'll tell you how it is celebrated by Chinese people worldwide.

II. Main Point #2: As with any holiday celebrated in different cultures all over the world like Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, the main focus is getting family and friends together to continue tradition and foster a stronger bond.

- A. The most famous food offered during this time is the mooncake.
 - 1. Mooncake gift sets are given to friends and family to show appreciation.
 - 2. From a 2024 Chinese Language Institute (CLI) article, mooncakes are round cakes that are usually about the size of hockey pucks, although their size, flavor, and style can differ depending on what part of China you are in.
 - 3. They can have sweet and savory fillings: popular flavors are white lotus, red beans, and nuts.
- B. Over the years, mass lantern lightings have become another popular way to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Transition: Speaking of celebrations, I'd like to share with you a unique way the people from Xiamen, the place where my ancestors were from, use to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.

III. Main Point #3: Families and friends gather to play Bo Bing or the Mooncake Dice Game. As mentioned by a 2022 article by a Filipino-Chinese non-profit organization, Tulay, this is essentially a game of chance, played with the use of six dice thrown into a round bowl.

- A. The first player is assigned and rolls the dice and wins a specific prize depending on the dice combination.
- B. The dice are then passed to the next person, and the process is repeated until there are no prizes left.
- C. Originally, the prizes were mooncakes of different sizes.
- D. But over time, the prizes were substituted with houseware, food items, and sometimes even red envelopes with different cash amounts.
- E. The value of each prize is inversely proportional with its probability, meaning the bigger the prize, the harder it is to get it.
- F. The grand prize, called the Chiong Goan, could be as expensive as a car.
- G. Here's a short clip showing how the dice game is played.

(https://youtu.be/skzN8_N6srs?si=H7uDtyBS18bCkjnF&t=48) [0:48-1:02]

Conclusion:

- I. Signal Closing: In conclusion,
- II. Summary of Main Points: Chinese people all over the globe celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival in various ways.
- III. Restate Thesis: It is a special celebration with many different festivities that lets you spend time with your loved ones.

IV. Closing Impact: What's universal is this is a celebration of building strong family ties regardless of culture, and more specifically, enjoying mooncakes!

References

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