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Professor Carroll

COMM-111-12

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Informative Speech Outline

Topic: Oprah Winfrey

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: To show how perseverance and a strong will for a better life can motivate someone.

**Introduction**

1. Attention Getter: How many of you guys have heard of Oprah Winfrey?
2. Connect to Audience: While many of you may only remember Oprah's infamous quote “You get a car, you get a car”, there is much more to this reality TV host.
3. Credibility: Throughout this project, I spent many hours researching Oprah and am very intrigued by her life and what she made of it.
4. Thesis: Despite her rough childhood, Oprah became one of the most influential women in today’s society.
5. Preview: In this speech I will be telling you about Oprah’s childhood, her rise to fame, and what she is doing now.

**Body**

1. Main Point #1: In 2003, Ted Boscia wrote about Oprah Winfrey in his article, where he spoke about her childhood sexual abuse by her mother’s male friends and relatives.
2. After Oprah turned 13, she moved with her strict father in Tennessee and said that he was one of the best things to happen to her.
3. I think all of us can empathize for someone who has been sexually abused and has conquered and faced that stage in their life like Oprah has.
4. In addition to her coming face to face with her past, Oprah also thanks her father for his strict rules.
5. I think many of us can relate that having a strict parent may seem annoying or bad at that time, but when we reflect upon our childhood, that strictness gave us resilience and strength that can be useful throughout life.

**Transition:** As a result of Oprah’s childhood, she was determined to make a difference in other people's lives and help them any way possible which is apparent in her rise to fame.

II. Main Point #2: A 2015 article from Womens Wear Daily shows how Oprah, the host of the Oprah Winfrey show used this platform as a way to talk and influence deep political views that were not always likeable in the 1980’s such as, gay rights, substance abuse, and race issues.

1. Oprah’s talk show was a platform for her to help others and to make changes in people’s lives.
2. In the 1980’s the ideology was much different and at this time there was only one female person of color in the Senate.
3. Even though a talk show may seem small, her ideas could be spread nationally and became a top show for viewers.
4. I watched one episode of Oprah where she brought in the attackers of a young woman named Cathy. Two 15 year old boys kidnapped, raped, and murdered Cathy, a pregnant mother who also had a 5-year old daughter. Both boys pled guilty so there was no case and in this episode, Oprah brought cameras to the prison where he was being held (the other man died) and he told the story of what happened.
5. The two boys had problems at the gas station, so Cathy offered to drive them to get help. Instead, the one man directed her to drive down a dirt road into a field, held her at gunpoint, raped her, and eventually killed her. While this may seem like reliving the past, it gave Cathy’s family the closure and allowed them to forgive Cathy’s killer.
6. Oprah’s goal of her show was to help others and in every single episode, we can see how she achieved that.

**Transition:** Even though Oprah had a hit television show where she helped people weekly, she went even further and decided to make more contributions around the world.

III. Main Point #3: The Oprah Winfrey show stopped airing in 2011 but she continues to make an impact to this day. An article by Variety, shows the strong involvement by Oprah to her all girls school she opened up in 2007.

1. Oprah started a leadership academy for girls in South Africa and in 2017 it had marked ten years since opening.
2. At this school Oprah pays for everything the kids may need from uniforms, to books, and even medical expenses for the girls.
3. One girl attending Oprah’s leadership academy got into a car accident and needed multiple surgeries done so Oprah paid for every medical expense and helped her rehabilitate.
4. This is just one project of many that Oprah continues to contribute to and her legacy will live on through.

**Conclusion:**

1. Signal Closing: To wrap things up,
2. Summary of Main Points: I talked about Oprah’s childhood, her rise to fame, and her current life.
3. Restate Thesis: Despite her rough childhood, Oprah became one of the most influential women in today’s society.
4. Closing Impact: As Oprah would say, “You don’t become what you want, you become what you believe.”

**References**

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