

Name:

Period:

Topic: Tribute Speech

Tribute Speech Outline

General Purpose: Tribute Speech

Specific Purpose: Elizabeth Blackwell

Thesis: Elizabeth Blackwell has inspired me to pursue my dreams and never stop trying no matter what people say or how hard it gets.

Introduction

Attention Getter: “None of us know how capable we are until we are tested”—Elizabeth Blackwell

Connection to Audience: Elizabeth Blackwell was an inspiration to society. She changed the face of the medical field by opening the door to not just women, but everyone with a dream.

Credibility Statement: My dad was the one who introduced me to Elizabeth Blackwell. She’s been my role model ever since I was 10 years old.

Thesis: Elizabeth Blackwell has inspired me to pursue my dreams and never stop trying no matter what people say or how hard it gets.

Body

I. Background

A. Family

1. Elizabeth was part of a large and cultured family. The Blackwell family was denied access to public school because of their religious beliefs. Her parents Hannah and Samuel paid for their kids to have private tutors.
2. Samuel passed away and the three oldest girls, including Elizabeth, provided for the family by running a boarding school. Elizabeth showed me the importance of always putting family first.

B. Education

1. When Elizabeth no longer had to support her family, she started studying medicine with physicians who felt sorry for her.
2. Later when she felt more comfortable, she applied to medical schools, she was denied by all the colleges she applied to besides one, Geneva Medical College. They only let her into Geneva as a joke

3. The joke was on them as she was ranked 1st in her class and was the first woman in the United States to graduate with a medical career. This showed me that it doesn't matter what others think, and that you should always make the best out of a bad situation.

C. Her Inspiration

1. Never in her life had she thought of practicing medicine. As a woman, she wasn't even allowed to look at a medical book.
2. She turned to medicine because of a sick friend who told her she would have been spared her worst suffering if her physician was a woman. Someone who could have understood her pain. This taught me to never fear new things.

II. How she has inspired me and others

A. Discrimination

1. Elizabeth was told by almost everyone in her life that she could not do it because she was only a woman, and that medicine was too hard. She was told multiple times to "stick to teaching" because people thought that was a more suitable job for a woman.
2. In her college the male student body constantly harassed, shunned and excluded her. She was even barred from classroom demonstrations. Yet still she pushed through and graduated with her medical degree.
3. Elizabeth taught me and many other women to ignore the negativity and to trust yourself above all others. She proved that you can accomplish anything if you put your mind to it and to never give up no matter how hard it gets.

B. Overcoming Challenges & Helping Others

1. Unfortunately, Elizabeth lost vision in one eye and had to give up on her dream of becoming a surgeon. But instead of giving up on medicine she opened a medical college for women which provided training and experience for women doctors.
2. Her primary focus was the injured, the poor and the victims of discrimination. A belief that she brought to her college, encouraging her students to care for all, not just the super-rich.
3. Elizabeth taught me that in life, it's important to not only look out for yourself, but for others as well.

Conclusion

Summary: Elizabeth changed many women's lives. She is truly an inspiration who has taught me many valuable life lessons.

Memorable Ending: I would like to see a world full of kindhearted and motivated people. With someone like Elizabeth Blackwell as a role model, I truly believe I can help make it happen.

Work Cited

“Changing the Face of Medicine | Elizabeth Blackwell.” *U.S. National Library of Medicine*, National Institutes of Health, 3 June 2015, [cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_35.html](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_35.html). Accessed 5 Oct 2021.

“Elizabeth Blackwell.” *Biography: Elizabeth Blackwell*, Womens History, 2015, [Womenshistory.org](https://www.womenshistory.org). Accessed 6 Oct 2021.