Theodore Kim

MCC-UE 1805

Introductory Speech

**Introduction**

I. Opening Statement – Hello! My name is Theodore Kim, but you can call me Teddy.

II. Thesis statement –I am here today to introduce you all to myself.

III. Preview statement – I want to tell you about how Roger Federer helped me find my way here in front of you today.

**Body**

I. I’ve always had role models in life—Theodore Roosevelt, Ursela K. LeGuin, Bill Gates—, but when I was 13 I adopted the professional tennis player Roger Federer as my new role model **(differentiate the two in the picture)**

A. I tried to emulate Federer in every way possible

1. I enrolled in tennis lessons

2. I bought a second hand racquet on eBay (the same brand the Federer used)

3. Watched all of his professional matches

B. Forgot one important component of playing tennis: another player

1. I would serve balls back and fourth across an empty court in the local park

2. I didn’t know anyone who played tennis

II. I cam up with a solution to my problem: **(rather than make a friend who played tennis)** build a tennis partner

A. I designed a 6 ft tall, bipedal, two handed robot made of aluminum

1. Drew pictures by hand and did all the research on a library computer b/c I didn’t want my parents to find out and kill it **(I guess I realized how ridiculous it was in the back of my head…)**

2. Built up the courage to tell my parents about it

B. My parents told me how unfeasible the idea was **(let’s just say they deflated my exuberant over evaluation of the value of my idea, effectively returning it to its mean growth pattern… in other, non economic pun terms: “they burst my bubble”)**

1. Obviously I lacked all the knowledge and skill to build a robot in my bedroom

2. Plus, I estimated its cost to be $15,000

III. Rather than let my deferred dream dry up like a raisin in the sun, I pursued it with the vigor of a child off to prove his parents wrong

1. I taught myself the skills necessary to build a robot

1. I taught myself to code

2. I taught myself about electronics and wiring and construction

3. I ended up building a much more realistic robot…

B. I realized that, like tennis, you can’t build a robot by yourself

1. I joined a robotics team in high school and met some really awesome people, and learned how amazing engineering is

C. Fast forward to today

1. I enrolled in Tandon to pursue a degree in computer science and eventually robotics to fuel that insatiate passion

2. I’m involved in the NYU Robotic Design Team, where I’ve met some more awesome people

3. I’ve started a nonprofit organization to teach students how to build robots themselves, because I never want anyone to think that building a tennis robot is unfeasible

4. I’ve started a Educational Technology Company producing low cost tools to help students investigate their ideas and build cool stuff *(300K challenge)*

**Conclusion**

I. Summary statement – Through it all I haven’t forgotten about my original goal… to become the next Roger Federer. Though, I do plan on making some modifications. **(public speaking)**

II. Concluding statement – Some dreams are just too ridiculous to give up on