

CLASSIC SPEECH OUTLINE

Type this outline into your computer *exactly* as it appears below. Fill in each category in full sentences for speeches #2 and #3. **BOLD ALL HEADINGS.**

General Purpose: Pay Tribute

Specific Purpose: Ellen DeGeneres

Introduction:

- I. **Attention Getter:** “Laughter is the best medicine”. This is a quote I have always loved, as many times in my life a good laugh has helped me out of difficult time.
- II. **Motivation for Listening:** Humor is one many forms of relaxation we come across in our day to day lives. Most of us love to laugh, whether that be by reading memes, cracking jokes with friends or by watching Ellen DeGeneres talk show.
- III. **Thesis Statement:** If it’s not already clear, *Today I’m going to be paying tribute to Ellen DeGeneres, comedian, actor, humanitarian and more.*
- IV. **Preview of Speech (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)** First I will be speaking about Ellen’s early life, then her career, and finally her activism.

Transition: *So let me began with her early life.*

Body

I. First Main Point: Early Life

- a. Born in Louisiana January 26, 1958, Ellen became the youngest member of her family, which consisted of her father Elliot, brother Vance and mother Betty. Ellen wasn’t really the class clown; however, she was quite witty and knew how to use humor to make the people around her happy.
- b. Years later, Ellen’s parents divorced. Thirteen-year-old Ellen used her sense humor to make her mother happy. Instead of moping around and being sad about the separation, Ellen took action and chose joy over sorrow. This was one of the first moments that helped Ellen realize the power that humor has.

Transition: *Now that you know a bit about her early life, I will move on to her career.*

II. Second Main Point: Career

- a. After spending one semester at college, Ellen dropped out and began writing humor based essays for local magazines. She eventually became doing stand-up

comedy at a few coffeehouses. She eventually got the chance to perform on the Tonight Show in 1986, where she became first woman to invited by Johnny Carson, the host, to sit and chat with him after. Now you may be thinking, *who cares* or *who's Johnny Carson*, well all you need to know is that any comedian who performed on his show would become known nationwide. It's pretty much the ultimate career starter. By becoming the first woman to be invited to chat with him was inspirational for female comedians everywhere.

- b. Soon after Ellen began doing sit-coms. One of her most popular ones was *Ellen*. She was also in *Finding Nemo* and its sequel *Finding Dory*. Currently, Ellen is the host of her very own talk show called *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* since 2003.

Transition: After speaking about her career, I would like to talk about what makes Ellen an influential activist.

III. Third Main Point: Activism

- a. According to Look to the Star, Ellen has supported over 49 Charities and 30 Causes. Some of which are the American Red Cross, The Gentle Barn, Breast Cancer Awareness, Human Rights and Animal Rights.
- b. Another major group Ellen supports is the LGBT community. Ellen DeGeneres is a lesbian who came out in the late 90s, which could have potentially ended her career according to her family and friends. But because of her bravery, she did open up became a role model for gay and lesbian people ever since. She has been working hard to change people's mindsets about the LGBT community. One of the most successful ways she has done so has been being herself. Whether it's be hosting her talk show or hosting an award show, Ellen knows how to entertain and connect with her audience.

Transition: All in all Ellen is an amazing individual that has made her mark on this planet.

Conclusion

I. Summary:

Her ability to use humor as a way to connect to people of all ages is fascinating and really effective. That's why she has won many awards including but not limited to People's Choice for Favorite Humanitarian, Teen Choice Award for Choice Comedian, Kids Choice for Favorite Voice from Animated Movie and most recently the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

II. Throwback:

She has been using her gift of humor to change the lives around her from her early childhood with her mother, to her striving for social change now. Laughter is the best medicine. The best doctor in town is Ellen DeGeneres. That is why I wanted to take some time today to pay tribute her. Thank You.

References

"Ellen DeGeneres." *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 14 Feb. 2017, www.biography.com/people/ellen-degeneres-9542420.

"Ellen DeGeneres: Charity Work & Causes." *Look to the Stars*. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.