

Sample Outline for One-Point Speech - COM 181

DRIVING AN OLDER CAR

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience that driving an older car is a better use of natural resources than driving a new car.

Central Idea: Driving an older car is a better use of natural resources than driving a new car.

Introduction

I was driving my first car when the last big round of gas price increases occurred. Everybody started switching to smaller cars, mainly for gas economy, but they always liked to tell me how they were helping the environment, while glancing disapprovingly at my old V-8 Ford. They were wrong and I'm going to tell you how driving an older car is a better use of our natural resources than driving a new car.

Body

- I. Driving an older car is a better use of our natural resources than driving a new car.
 - A. It requires 14 thousand kilowatt hours to manufacture the materials for a new car. (factual example - Jamison 189)
 1. Ninety-five percent of our industrial energy is produced by fossil fuels.
 2. Mining, smelting, and power plants produce more pollution than automobiles.
 - B. A car (by 1979 standards) will use only one thousand kilowatt hours of gas to travel 50,000 miles. (factual example - Jones 124)
 1. The overall efficiency of new cars is only 20 percent better than cars ten years old. (statistic - Time 42)
 2. There have been no dramatic improvements in pollution control.
 - a. The government requires the use of only no-lead gasolines.
 - b. Most cars made since 1975 run on no-lead gas.
 - C. Obtaining parts from a junkyard is the most efficient form of recycling.

Conclusion

Now I hope everyone will agree that we won't put as many of our resources into the tank, or into the air through the exhaust pipes as we did when we manufactured the car. So, as you are graduating in the next few years and are ready for your next "Big Step," buying a new car, I hope you remember that a new car need not be your only "efficient" option.

Adapted from an original speech by LCC student Sean McLaughlin.

Works Cited

“Is Your New Car Fuel Efficient?” Time May 1980: 40-42.

Jamison, Sarah. “Increasing Your MPG’s.” Car and Driver September 1984: 188-189.

Jones, Brian. “Sizing Up the 86’s.” Motor Trend July 1986: 88-90, 124.

Sample Outline for “One-Point of Aggravation” Speech - COM 181

COMPACT DISCS

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience that one point of aggravation for me is the unreasonably high retail price of a compact disc.

Central Idea: One point of aggravation for me is the unreasonably high retail price of a compact disc.

Introduction

Most all of us enjoy music. Music can soothe the frayed mind and can even alter a depressed or angered mood. Music adds the perfect touch to a relaxed atmosphere or a rowdy party. If there is a particular group you like to listen to, naturally you buy the release at the music store so you can enjoy it whenever you want. But doesn't the sticker price of compact discs at the store make you ill? You begin to question whether the pleasure from the music is worth the investment. I have to consider if I can actually afford such a purchase. That is why today I want to inform you that one point of aggravation for me is the unreasonably high retail price of a compact disc.

Body

- I. One point of aggravation for me is the unreasonably high retail price of compact disc.
 - A. Record companies price compact discs to ensure their investment.
 1. Consumers pick up the tab for the advanced technology needed to produce high-quality digital recordings. (factual example - Barret 35)
 2. Record companies need to finance low selling releases, new group development, marketing, and such. (factual example - Pareles 22)
 - B. Compact disc prices are also driven up by greed on the part of the record companies and artists.
 1. Multimillion dollar deals with popular artists cause rate hikes at the store. (statistic - Pareless 22)
 2. The difference between the manufacturing cost and the wholesale price is about two dollars per disc. (statistic - Barret 34)
 - C. Consumers are willing to pay the high prices.
 1. “The recording industry is betting that fans won't mind spending an extra dollar or two” on their favorite music. (testimony - Pareless 22)
 2. Personally I have decided to make the investment in compact discs because I enjoy the high quality tape duplications I can make from digital recordings.

Conclusion

Although price gouging occurs and greed is running rampant in the music recording industry, people are still buying compact discs. Quality and demand, in my opinion, are what keep the compact discs rolling. I will continue to buy compact discs but it really aggravates me to pay such high prices.

Works Cited

Barret, Todd. "The Start of the CD Backlash? With prices still stiff, some consumers are balking."

Newsweek 16 July 1990: 46.

Pareles, Jon. "The \$16.98 CD: How High is Too High?" New York Times 20 Sept. 1992, sect. 5, 22.

Adapted from an original speech by LCC student Grant Page.