Gary McClure
Mr. Gary McClure
English 10
-- September 20—
Poor Man's Piccolo

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1. **Purpose statement**: The purpose of my speech is to demonstrate to my English 10 class how to create a plethora of sounds and songs, using only hands as musical instruments.
2. **Introduction**: My momma sat sobbing with her head in her hands, elbows on the steering wheel, cheeks still red from the embarrassment she had suffered in the grocery store. "I'm sorry, Mrs. McClure, but I won't be able to let you charge any more groceries until you've paid this bill down," the grocer had said quietly as she had checked out just a few minutes before, and now we, her three small sons, sat quiet as mice waiting for her to collect herself enough to realize that she had parked our old jalopy without a reverse gear nose-first into a parking slot. Being raised poor had its drawbacks, and this experience exemplifies one of them, but it had its benefits, too. We learned to make do with what we had. Of course, without money to buy groceries or replace our reverse gear, we certainly didn't have money for musical instruments – so we created our own. We created whistles form metal railroad packing and from pop bottles and we learned to whistle with our hands, a skill that, as I will demonstrate, has more purposes than you might imagine.
3. **Outline**

I. Intro –
II. Materials needed

A. Hands
B. Mouth
C. Patience
D. Practice
E. Persistence

III. Steps in process

A. The owl's hoot and whistling wind
    1. Cup hands as directed
        a. Create closed cavern
        b. Make cavern as full as possible
    2. Create the aperture for the whistle with your thumbs
    3. Keep cavern closed
    4. Blow gently into the aperture to create a breathy, low whistle

B. The alert whistle
    1. Cup hands and create cavern and thumb aperture as directed above.
    2. Open cavern as widely as possible to create a high-pitched whistle
    3. Blow hard on thumb aperture

C. Play a song
    1. Cup hands and create cavern and thumb aperture as directed above.
    2. Use right hand, like a trombone slide, to open and close the cavern.
    3. Change pitches as desired to create the song.

D. Modifications
    1. The referee's whistle
    2. The quiet raspy whistle
    3. The wolf whistle

IV. Conclusion –

Rich or poor, as long as you have hands to clasp and breath to breathe into them, you will now be able to hoot like an owl; mimic the whistling wind; call your dog, your children, or your students when you lose your voice; play a song without a pricy instrument; express your appreciation of God's natural beauty; or even create new sounds as you exercise the requisite patience, practice and persistence to develop your skills as a budding whistling concert musician.