

Outline the Hype

A public speaking practice activity for outlining, organizing, and identifying where source support is needed.

Purpose: Students practice using a standard speech outline format, organizing ideas logically, and marking where outside evidence would strengthen credibility and support.

Topic: How TikTok influences what music becomes popular

Directions

Using the topic above, complete the outline template below for a short informative speech.

Your goal is not to write a full speech. Instead, practice organizing ideas into a speech outline, writing a clear thesis and preview, creating logical main points, and identifying where outside sources would be needed.

Whenever you reach a place where you think a fact, statistic, example, trend, or claim would need support, write **[Source needed]**. You can also be more specific, such as **[Source needed: statistic]**, **[Source needed: expert opinion]**, or **[Source needed: recent example]**.

Outline Template

Speech title:

General purpose: To inform

Specific purpose: After hearing my speech, my audience will understand

Thesis statement:

Organizational pattern:

I. Introduction

A. Attention getter (“hook”)

Write a strong opening that would grab your audience’s attention.

B. Relevance to audience

Why should college students care about this topic?

C. Speaker credibility

Why are you a reasonable person to speak on this topic?

D. Thesis statement

E. Preview of main points

Today I will explain:

1.

2.

3.

II. Main Point 1: Make a claim, share information.

Write your first main point as a full sentence.

A. Supporting detail

B. Example or explanation

C. Evidence needed

[Sources needed? What kind?] _____

Transition to Main Point 2

III. Main Point 2: Make a claim, share information.

Write your second main point as a full sentence.

A. Supporting detail

B. Example or explanation

C. Evidence needed

[Source needed? What kind?] _____

Transition to Main Point 3

IV. Main Point 3: Make a claim, share information.

Write your third main point as a full sentence.

A. Supporting detail

B. Example or explanation

C. Evidence needed

[Source needed? What kind?] _____

V. Conclusion

A. Signal the ending

B. Review main points

Today we looked at:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Memorable closing line (“clincher”)

Source Check

List at least three places in your outline where you would need outside support.

1.

2.

3.

What kind of source would work best in each place?

(ex. statistic, expert quote, news article, study, or example/case...)

1.

2.

3.

Optional instructor notes

Debrief ideas

- Did you choose the same organizational pattern as your classmates?
- Where did you decide a source was necessary?
- Which parts of the speech were easiest to outline?
- Which parts were hardest?