

Optimist Oratorical Competition:

My Future is Bright Because...

By Christina Ling

Introduction

My future is bright because..... When I asked my younger brother why he thought his future was bright he replied, "Because I have a lot of light bulbs going off in my head!" I do not know if I have light bulbs going off in my head, but I do know my future is bright because there is a world of resources at my fingertips! Included in those resources are books, technology, and the World Wide Web.

Using resources helps me gain information. I need information to answer questions, solve problems and communicate with others. By using my resources, I will know myself better and be able to serve my community more effectively for a brighter future.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:43 PM

Comment [1]: Official Topic

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:44 PM

Comment [2]: My daughter when she was in middle school.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:45 PM

Comment [3]: Not necessary, but this helped my daughter organize her paper.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:20 PM

Comment [4]: Begin with your topic in the introduction. The timer will begin your time after you have stated the official topic.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:22 PM

Comment [5]: The personal story is her hook. You can use a variety of hooks (quote, statistic, shocking fact, story, humor, etc.....)

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:23 PM

Comment [6]: Thesis: includes her topic and the three main points she will be talking about in her speech.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:24 PM

Comment [7]: She sets the purpose and importance for the audience to listen to what she will talk about, without going into too many details.

Books

Thomas Carlyle once said, “What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books.” I must live in the greatest university of all because my mother is a book collector and we have a large collection of books in our home. Growing up with these books has given me a passion for a resource that provides me with a plethora of information and entertainment.

Since the beginning of recorded time man has captured knowledge in books. Before there were books, there were cave paintings, scrolls and stones. Not unlike today, people wanted to record and transfer information. They wanted to communicate with other people. I love books. They are not only resources that let me learn about different topics and places, they are also very entertaining. I can read about a person from hundreds of years ago and relate to them even today. I can discover the meaning of Pandora’s Box, the definition of Serendipity or the explanation of the history of the Platypus. Books are a wonderful resource that not only makes my future bright, but afforded my parents, grandparents and great-grandparents a bright future as well.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:25 PM

Comment [8]: Always give credit in your speech for quotes. If you don't, you could be illuminated from the competition.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:26 PM

Comment [9]: Include personal experiences related to your topic.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:28 PM

Comment [10]: After you have a rough draft speech, go back and look for places to add higher more sophisticated vocabulary that may enhance your ideas.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:28 PM

Comment [11]: Be sure and include voice in your speech.

Computer

One resource that will make my future even brighter than generations before me is the computer. The computer takes up far less space than books. It can access thousands, if not millions of books as well as information books cannot provide. A computer is a part of technology that helps people gather, store, use, and organize information. In preparing for this speech I was able to research, record, and save information that would otherwise have taken my parents hours longer when they were my age. Prior to the 1990's, personal computers were rarely available in homes. My parents would have simply used books and a typewriter. I used the "cut and paste" command at least 10 times in writing this speech. Without my computer my mom says I would have spent hours using white out, as well as typing and retyping my speech. I am glad technology is a part of my world making my present and future brighter.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:32 PM

Comment [12]: This is a transition that connects this paragraph with the previous one. She ended the last paragraph with talking about her grandparents/great-grandparents and connected it with talking about an even brighter future than previous generations. There are many ways to transition into a new paragraph. For more transition help, see my writing center and download transitions.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:34 PM

Comment [13]: Be sure and continue personal experiences and voice throughout your speech. Imagine speaking what you write. In this case, Christina used a hand gesture to indicate quotations.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:35 PM

Comment [14]: Continue to stay on topic throughout your speech. It's easy to get off topic, but staying on topic and continuing to make it interesting is your goal!

World Wide Web

I am also glad information is easier to find than in past generations. For most of history, information was scarce and expensive. Now it is available, abundant and cheap thanks to the Internet and the World Wide Web. I have more information available to me on the Web today than the smartest person

alive 20 years ago. My future will be bright as long as I learn to use that information. The information will not be a benefit to me if I do not use it.

I can use knowledge and information to advance my own learning, but I can also use it to communicate with others. For example, last summer I used the web to research information on trans fat. In addition to my own changes in diet, I gave a presentation in my 4-H club, at county fair and at state fair to communicate to my community the danger of trans fat to their health.

Information is a valuable resource that especially makes my future bright when I am able to share it.

Conclusion

Books contain the knowledge of mankind, technology helps to organize this information and the World Wide Web has made it cheap and available to everyone. I know that my future is bright because there is a world of resources at my fingertips. I hope to continually use and share my knowledge and resources. Come to think about it, perhaps light bulbs are going off in my head.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:37 PM

Comment [15]: Continuing with personal experiences.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:38 PM

Comment [16]: Be sure and include in your speech how you work with or help your friends/community/family. You want to be sure and share how thoughtful you are of those around you😊

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:39 PM

Comment [17]: Reword your thesis or what you talked about in your conclusion.

Lori Ling 12/22/12 3:40 PM

Comment [18]: If possible, connect your conclusion to your introduction. Remember to begin and end strong. Your audience will remember your introduction and conclusion!