

SAMPLE FULL-SENTENCE OUTLINE: COMMUNICATION CONCEPT

Communication Concept Speech: Identity Scripts

Topic: Identity Scripts help us define ourselves from the time we were children.

Purpose: To teach the audience what identity scripts are, and why they are important in our lives.

I. Introduction

- A. Do you remember all of those annoying things that you parents used to say to you all of the time like, "Money doesn't grow on trees," or "Treat others as you wish to be treated?" Chances are, these values that your parents' taught you are still in with you today, and have an affect on who you are. If so this shows that you did not have complete control over who you grew up to be.
- B. Motivation: It is important to know about identity scripts because if you are not aware of what they are and how they are used, then it may be hard for you to understand why you are the way you are, and why you do some of the things that you do.
- C. Thesis Claim: Identity scripts are ways in which our family members influence us through communicating their ideas of who we are and what our values should be.
- D. Preview of Main Points:
 - 1. First off I would like to give you a better definition of this concept.
 - 2. Then I will illustrate how this concept is present in the real world.
 - 3. Lastly, I hope to highlight why this idea is significant.

(Transition: Now that you know what I will be talking about today, we will move into the definition of identity scripts.)

II. Body

- A. First let's define what this concept really means.
 - 1. Identity scripts are used by others to communicate to us who we are, and Woods explains on page 69 that they are "rules for how we are supposed to live and who we are supposed to be." Instead of just picking up on things that are said to us, these are values our parents teach us about our family and what is considered right or wrong for us to do.
 - 2. These scripts are also a tool that parents use to tell us what they want us to do. How many times did your parents tell you, "You'll grow up and go to college?" This was probably not always a guarantee, but it was what your parents wanted for you.

(Transition: After me defining identity scripts for you, it might help your understanding if you heard some examples.)

- B. Next, let's move to some real world illustrations.
 - 1. One value that is strong in my family is the value of friendship. My parents always taught me at an early age to befriend anyone, and especially the people that seemed like they didn't have a lot of other friends. Even though this value was taught early on, I still lived it in

High School by making friends with the foreign exchange students and including them in social activities.

2. Another thing that was reiterated to me when I was younger was the importance of saving money. When I got my small allowance I always wanted to go out and spend the money right then and buy as much as I could. My mom would always explain to me that if I waited and saved my money, that later I could buy something bigger and better with my money. To this day, I am always saving whatever money I get for something bigger and better that I can buy.

(Transition: Now that we have seen some examples and you fully understand this concept, what makes it important?)

- C. Identity scripts are fairly simple, but they are still significant in our communication.
 1. Wood states on page 70, “most psychologists believe that the basic identity scripts for our lives are formed very early, probably by age 5.” This means that we have little control over the basic understanding of who we are and the way we are supposed to live. Our identity scripts are absorbed when we have no real understanding of what is going on in our lives.
 2. Since you really have no control over who your basic person turns out to be, it is very hard to change if you do not like who you are, or the habits that you have learned. But don’t worry about being limited by these concepts, you can challenge these definitions and scripts and still have some control over who you are and what you do through your own experiences in life!

(Transition: I hope that I have given you a good understanding of identity scripts.)

III. Conclusion

- A. Review of key points: In conclusion, some of the main points that I have covered today are that:
 1. Identity scripts as woods states are “rules for how we are supposed to live and who we are supposed to be.”
 2. These scripts are illustrated in your everyday life thought the actions that you still follow from when you were young.
 3. It is important to know that you learned these scripts early on in order to know who you are now.
- B. Representation of Thesis Claim: Chances are that if you were told something often when you were young, then it has become a part of who you are, and your values.
- C. Memory Devise/Lasting Thought: In conclusion, to help you remember this concept, just think: identity scripts define our **identity** of who we will become.