

**PLEASE NOTE: YOUR SPEECH IS ABOUT YOU!**

- Specific Purpose: To entertain and inspire my audience by honoring a special teacher and describing the impact she has had on my life.
- Central Idea: English teacher Jean Wright influenced many aspects of my life by showing examples of warmth, courage and concern for others.
- Organizational Pattern: topical

Introduction

- I.
- A. (Attention-getter) Who has had the greatest influence on your life? For many of us, a special teacher probably comes to mind.
  - B. (Credibility) Throughout my career as a student, many teachers have come and gone and have been loved and hated, but none has had a greater impact than Mrs. Jean Wright, my senior English teacher.
  - C. (Reveal Topic) Certainly, all of us have had teachers who evoked strong emotions in us, both positive and negative; today I would like to pay tribute to this very special lady.
  - D. (Preview Body of Speech) Mrs. Jean Wright was the epitome of warmth, concern for others, and courage as she proved both in her professional and personal lives.

*Anecdote: Now, I want to give you some examples of why Ms. Wright was so special.*

II. Body

- A. Jean Wright taught her students by her example of warmth.
  - 1. Ms. Wright always had a smile and an inspiring thought to share.
  - 2. Ms. Wright helped me through a difficult time in my life.

*Anecdote: My high-school problems did not compare to the trials Ms. Wright faced while teaching .*

- B. Jean Wright taught her students by her example of courage.
  - 1. Ms. Wright maintained a positive outlook when diagnosed with cancer.
  - 2. Despite ill-health and suffering, Ms. Wright never missed a class.

*Anecdote: In addition to giving her all to her students, Ms. Wright also donated her time to the community.*

- C. Jean Wright taught her students by her example of concern for others.
  - 1. Ms. Wright volunteered for several local charities.
  - 2. Ms. Wright always put others' needs before her own.

*Anecdote: So I hope you have seen what a truly unique and wonderful individual Jean Wright was. (Prepared audience for conclusion)*

III. Conclusion

- A. I'm sure that we have all had teachers who were special to us in some way, and I hope you can see how Mrs. Wright's warmth, concern and courage made her special to all her students. (Reinforced central idea.)
- B. The impact that this lady had upon those who knew her was undeniably proven when the announcement of her death as a result of the cancer which she had fought for so long caused a football stadium full of screaming fans to fall silent and to reflect upon the great loss the school, the community, and the world had suffered. (Ended with strong impact)