

Sample Informative Speech Outline

Title: *Star Trek*

Specific Purpose: To inform the audience about the history of the television show *Star Trek*, including the history of *Star Trek*, the meaning behind *Star Trek*, and the impact left behind by *Star Trek*.

Thesis Statement: *Star Trek*, which originally ran from 1966 to 1969, and has spawned at least five spin-off television shows, eleven motion pictures, and billions of dollars worth of revenue, is a “cultural phenomenon,” which has made an extreme impact on the world (Kozinets 1).

Introduction

- I. On October 4, 1958, known later on as “Sputnik Night,” the world was changed as we knew it (Launius).
- II. *Star Trek*, which originally ran from 1966 to 1969, and has spawned at least five spin-off television shows, eleven motion pictures, and billions of dollars worth of revenue, is a “cultural phenomenon,” which has made an extreme impact on the world (Kozinets 1).
- III. I will be talking today about the history of the television show *Star Trek*, the meaning behind *Star Trek*, and the impact left behind by *Star Trek*.
- IV. In addition to watching the entirety of *Star Trek: The Original Series*, and most of *Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*, I have done research into the science and physics behind *Star Trek*, as well as the history behind the show.

(**Transition...**Unless you have been living underneath a rock, in a dark cave, millions of miles away from a single other living being for the entirety of your life, I am sure that each and every one of you have at least heard the name *Star Trek*, but how many of you actually know the history behind the franchise?)

Body

- I. The original *Star Trek* created by Gene Roddenberry in 1966 had an interesting and unusual history towards its success.
 - A. *Star Trek* was created and produced during the height of the Cold War and the middle of the Russia-United States race to put a man in space (Kozinets 3).
 - B. *Star Trek* lasted three seasons, and starred William Shatner as Captain James T. Kirk, Leonard Nimoy as the logical First Officer Commander Spock, DeForest Kelley as Chief Medical Officer Dr. McCoy, Nichelle Nichols as Lt. Uhura, George Takei as Lt. Sulu, and Walter Koenig as Ensign Chekov.

(**Transition...**Next, I will be talking about the meaning behind *Star Trek*.)

- II. Since *Star Trek* was an American television show during the Cold War era, there were often storylines which alluded to the Vietnam War or Communism in the guise of other worlds (Cantor 1).
 - A. *Star Trek* was a sci-fi series set 300 years in the future, in a “postcapitalist social and technological Utopia,” as according to Professor Robert Kozinets (Kozinets 3).
 - B. According to Larry Kreitzer in his paper The Cultural Veneer of Star Trek, *Star Trek* borrowed influences freely and shamelessly from literary sources, including William Shakespeare (Kreitzer 1).

(Transition...Lastly, I will be talking about the impact left behind by *Star Trek*.)

- III. *Star Trek: The Original Series* made an impact on the minds of viewers during its short run, and made the way for decades of further exploration.
 - A. The Original Series was followed by five spinoffs: The Animated Series, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, Voyager and Enterprise, and eleven movies, the first being *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, and the most recent being *Star Trek (2009)*.
 - B. The groundbreaking design of the technology in *Star Trek* actually provided for the designs of some modern technology.

(Transition...In conclusion,)

Conclusion

- I. I have talked today about the history of the television show *Star Trek*, the meaning behind *Star Trek*, and the impact left behind by *Star Trek*.
- II. *Star Trek*, which originally ran from 1966 to 1969, and has spawned at least five spin-off television shows, eleven motion pictures, and billions of dollars worth of revenue, is a “cultural phenomenon,” which has made an extreme impact on the world (Kozinets).
- III. *Star Trek* was not the first, nor the last, of stories involving humankind coming in contact with life from other worlds, and I hope that in the future, the capacity to do so much more for ourselves will be there, so we can, in the words of two of the most well known characters in the “Space Age” media, Captain James T. Kirk and Buzz Lightyear of Star Command, go “where no man has gone before,” “to infinity and beyond” (*Star Trek, Toy Story*).

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