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Hokett Speech 100

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Persuasive Speech

I. Introduction

A. Attention Statement

Taken from the LA Times, “Monrovia, Liberia-Mortar shells slammed into a Monrovia church packed with hundreds of terrified refugees and hit the surrounding area on Saturday, killing seven people and wounding dozens more.” In his first comments since Bush’s deployment order, Taylor said, “The presence of peacekeepers in extremely necessary to redeem us and save our people. After they come, we will receive them and I will turn over my office.”

B. Subject Statement

Africa needs our help. Civil wars have infected five countries, poverty and food shortages are rampant, and “AIDS is stripping whole societies of the parents, farmers and teachers who could turn things around,” stated a CNN commentator.

C. Point Preview

Today we will discuss the African continent and our responsibility to supply foreign aid. We will look at the problems Africa faces today, their causes and the solutions needed to improve the quality of life for the entire continent.

D. Significance of Subject

I am imploring to the goodness in all of you. Over eight thousand five hundred people a day are dying of AIDS. People are living in gross amounts of poverty with the majority of people having little access to food or medicine, while we in the United States are spending three dollars a day on Starbucks. How can we as a nation not feel as if it is duty to help when we are living with such excess?

II. Main Point I

A. Subject Statement

When someone makes the statement Aid to Africa, the first thing that comes to mind is AIDS epidemic. Also, the fact that five of the countries are at war with each other and the amount of poverty being faced by nearly every country on this continent.

B. Documentation

As stated in the article “Hope for Africa” issued on July 14 in Newsweek, “As Secretary of State Colin Powell declared recently, HIV is now more destructive than any army, any conflict, or any weapon of mass destruction.”

C. Illustration

HIV and AIDS are killing the people of Africa. There are thirty million people infected with the disease on this continent. Eight thousand five hundred people each day are dying of this disease and many lack even the most basic health services. With the cost of AIDS drugs plummeting it is now a reasonable goal to supply this form of healthcare.

D. Signpost Statement I

If thirty million people with AIDS is not problem enough, five African countries are fighting a civil war.

E. Documentation

As stated in the Press Review article titled, “In Hell’s Waiting Room,” printed on May 26, 2003, “We are witnessing genocide, and the U.N. is standing by doing nothing.”

F. Illustration

In the countries of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote D’Ivoire and Rwanda there are civil wars being fought at this moment. With many people being so poor, sick and uneducated, they have no means to fight off these rebel groups. They are powerless in a world run by rebel leaders and militant governments.

G. Signpost Statement II

A third problem faced by this vast continent is poverty.

H. Documentation

As stated in the World Policy Journal, volume XX, article titled “Nigeria: Bellwether of African Democracy,” Despite oil revenues of two hundred and eighty billion dollars over three decades, Nigeria seems trapped in a poor house, with most of it’s people earning less than a dollar a day, according to the World Bank.”

I. Illustration

The people on this continent are struggling. Most are living in third world conditions with the fundamentals of life being scarce. These rebel and militant groups who have little regard for government regulation are dictating their lives. Each time the power changes hands so does the protocol regarding money and laws, leaving the remainder of the population to fend for themselves.

J. Summary Statement

Three of the biggest hurdles facing Africa today are AIDS, civil wars, and poverty. With these epidemics and constant fighting amongst different groups it looks as though they are almost fighting a losing battle.

K. Transition Statement

Now that we have looked at some of the problems facing Africa today let’s take a look at some of their causes.

III. Main Point II

A. Subject Statement

In a country where there is no uniform government and democratic system as well as little accessibility to food, healthcare and education the problems become compounded.

B. Documentation

As stated in the book Twentieth Century, J.M. Roberts, “In the twenty seven years after Ghana came to independence twelve wars were to be fought in Sub Saharan Africa between Africans and thirteen heads of state would be assassinated. The former Belgian Congo was not only woefully short of trained personnel but was ethically provincially deeply divided.”

C. Illustration

This is continent that is ruled by power and suggestive opinion. With the constant civil war and attempts at overthrowing the government they have created constant chaos and inconsistent rules. The civil war is killing their nation.

D. Signpost Statement I

With no uniform government in many areas it is no surprise that they have little accessibility to the basics of human life.

E. Documentation

As stated in an article printed in the Los Angeles Times written by Robin Wright and Edwin Chen, “About 1/3 of Liberia’s three million people have been displaced since rebels took up arms against President Charles Taylor in the latest round of fighting in 1999.”

F. Illustration

Due to the amount of civil war people are constantly on the move and are in fear for their life. They lack many civil liberties and it is a struggle some days just to stay alive. As stated in the previously cited Newsweek article, “We move according to the security condition—the war hasn’t stopped since 1996—were without food, clothes, medicine, with only the hope that God will come to our aid.”

G. Signpost Statement II

In some areas where basic needs are so scarce the education system is suffering as well.

H. Documentation

As stated in the article “AIDS is Eroding the Educational System in Africa,” found on the cite cyc-net.org, “In the first ten months of 1998, about thirteen hundred teachers died of AIDS in Zambia, which was more than twice the number of teacher deaths in all of 1997 and equaling about 2/3 of all teachers annually.”

I. Illustration

While some in Africa are living well and have the opportunity for education far too many people do not. Their teachers are either dying of AIDS, or they are forced to move around due to the civil wars. Some have a few years of education while others are so poor they have no means to get there nor are physically capable of doing so.

J. Summary Statement

In a continent where there are few stable governments and huge amount of the population lack basic civil liberties it is difficult to find the light at the end of the tunnel.

L. Transition Statement

Now that we have looked at some of the causes of Africa's problems, let's look at some of the solutions.

IV. Main Point III

A. Subject Statement

Some of the proposed solutions are a huge AIDS package, and continued support from other countries.

B. Documentation

As stated in the article by Elisabeth Bumiller printed in the New York Times, July 8, 2003, "On the eve of a presidential visit to Africa, President Bush today nominated Randall Tobias, a former chairman of Eli Lilly and company, to run a fifteen billion dollar program over five years to fight AIDS worldwide."

C. Illustration

Many nations are coming together to fight AIDS. This prevention and treatment program will go to twelve African nations as well as Haiti and Guyana. They estimate it will cost less than three hundred dollars a year to treat each patient. With the new generic drugs available, fighting AIDS is now a feasible task. To assist in this fight, please contact the Children's Hunger Relief Fund to make your donations either by credit card or to find the address where you can send your check. You may reach them online at www.Chrf.com or you may write to your governor at www.governor@governor.ca.gov, and express to him your feelings on this matter.

D. Signpost Statement I

With a very positive AIDS package on the horizon and many nations joining together to lend assistance, the future looks bright.

E. Documentation

As stated in an article by Willian Orme found on detnew.com last accessed July 20, 2003, "The Group of eight which includes the United States, Russia, Canada, Britain, Japan, France, Germany, and Italy pledged to provide six billion in additional assistance for Africa within four years while reducing tariffs on selected African ports."

F. Illustration

Africa's horizon is definitely looking better. There are many positive things in the works by many different countries. President Bush has just deployed troops to the area and the G8 convention looks like it could be a turning point. Their hopes are that the African countries will establish just governments, invest in their own people, and promote economic freedom.

G. Signpost Statement II

While other countries are being supportive, President Bush seems to be leading the way.

H. Documentation

As printed in the Economist, July 5, 2003, Bob Geldorf stated that, "You'll think I'm off my trolley when I say this, but the Bush Administration is the most radical--in a positive sense--in its approach to Africa since Kennedy."

I. Illustration

President Bush is passionate about his new relief program. He has committed an additional ten billion dollars over the next ten years and he feels that Africa is an important part to the fight against terrorism. He feels that in helping Africa set up their own governments they will be less susceptible to falling under terrorist control.

J. Summary Statement

We have looked at some solution steps that are being taken to help Aid to Africa. It is your duty to take part in this Aid and help a nation that needs it so desperately.

V. Conclusion

A. Summary

Africa is continent that is struggling with AIDS, poverty, and unsecured governments. At this point, drastic measures are being taken to help these struggling nations.

B. Significance of Subject

This is a problem that touches us all. We are living in the richest nation in the world. How can we not want to share the gifts that we have been given to help our fellow man?

C. Post Point Summary

Today, we have looked at some of the major problems in Africa and their causes, as well as solution steps that are being taken to rectify them.

D. Wrap Around

We need to help this nation. Taken from the LA Times, “Taylor said that more than one thousand people had died in the eight days of attacks by rebels trying to topple him and that, “If I were not here, there would be bodies all over the city.”

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