

### \*\*\*SAMPLE OUTLINE

Your Name HERE  
HCOM 100  
Section #/Instructor

**Title:** Warming Our World and Chilling Our Future

**Specific Purpose:** To inform my audience of the causes of the greenhouse effect.

**Thesis Statement:** Today I want to share what I've learned about the greenhouse effect and its major causes.

#### Introduction

**Attention material:** When Mark Twain was in London in 1897, a rumor reached the editor of the *New York Journal* who immediately wired his London correspondent, "HEARD MARK TWAIN DIED, SEND 1000 WORDS." The correspondent showed the telegram to Twain, who wired back this message, "REPORT OF MY DEATH GREATLY EXAGGERATED." This response applies to my speech topic today. Despite the efforts of some to write its obituary, and to erase it from the public agenda, the greenhouse effect is a growing, not declining problem. The reports of its death have been greatly exaggerated.

**Thesis Statement:** Today I want to share what I've learned about the greenhouse effect and its major causes.

**Preview:** We need to be concerned, first, about the loss of woodlands, second, about industrial emissions, and third, about overall spectacular increases in world energy consumption.

(**Transition:** Let's begin by understanding more about the greenhouse effect)

#### Body

- I. The greenhouse effect is a gradual warming of the earth caused by human activities (Monastersky, 1994).
  - A. It is characterized by a high concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (Anthes, 1993)
    1. Each year five tons of carbon are pumped into the atmosphere for each person in the United States
    2. In 1987 the level of carbon dioxide soared to a record high level.
    3. The nine warmest years in this century have all occurred since 1980 (Atkinson, 1995)
  - B. Carbon pollutants are producing a hole in the ozone layer.
    1. The hole in the ozone layer reduces the earth's ability to protect us from ultraviolet radiation.
  - C. If this problem is not corrected, we may see disastrous results.
    1. There could be a dramatic climate change (Atkinson, 1995)
    2. There could be serious health problems (Lemonick (1995), "Ozone")

(**Transition:** Now that you understand what the greenhouse effect is and why it is important, let's examine the major causes.)

- II. One cause of the greenhouse effect is the loss of woodlands that convert carbon dioxide into oxygen.