Title: The impact of music and dance

Topic: How music and dancing has impacted the youth of America

General purpose: To invite

Specific purpose: To invite my speech class in the discussion of music, and how it has a profound impact on society’s youth.

Central idea: Music is everywhere and is never going away so instead of trying to censor our young people’s use of it, we should encourage individual expression through music.

Time: 11+/- 1 minute

I. INTRODUCTION

(Attention step)

A. Attention-getting: All over the world music plays a huge part in societies. Musical influences such as dancing, singing and expression of self greatly affect society’s youth.

B. Credibility material: Many studies have shown the immense effect music and dance have had on society’s youth. Some effects are bad and some are good, but the thing to keep in mind is that music is an expression of self and emotion. Because of this, music should be protected.
C. Relevance to audience: Many of us in this room are considered the “Youth of America” and some of us even have children of our own so it is crucial to understand music’s impact on young people.

D. Preview of speech: This speech will provide both the adult and youth perspectives on musical influences in the United States and how these influences are shaping the society’s culture by impacting its youth as a whole.

Transition from introduction to body: Let’s start by examining both sides of this issue by taking a look at the current impact of musical influences on America’s young people.

II. BODY

(Need step)

A. Even though there is much controversy on music’s exact impact on society, young people use musical influences in many different ways to shape their identity in their lives (Longhurst, 2007).

1. Adults believe that music encourages inappropriate behavior and bad role models among their young people.

   a. There are three main purposes for listening to music: “atmosphere creation and mood control, silence-filling and passing the time, and attention to lyrics” (Roberts, 1998). Because of these reasons, parents often feel disconnected from their children because musical lyrics are doing their parenting for them.

   b. Music is also used to “accompany courtship and sexual behavior” which frightens parents a lot because they believe peer pressure is often used through
music to push their child into something they are not ready for yet (Roberts, 1998).

c. As the popularity of music among youth grows, the number of teens who are becoming more violent, more sexually active and who are experimenting with drugs is steadily increasing (Keshen, 2008).

2. Young people believe that music helps them express themselves and also helps them through hard times.

   a. At the simplest, most global level, people of all ages listen to music because it provides pleasure. For adolescents especially, the pleasure can be intense and tends to be associated with the most intense, ‘peak’ experiences of life (Roberts, 1998).

   b. Young people often utilize music and dancing as a way to reinforce a certain mood that they are in so music tends to be the medium of choice to accomplish the task (Roberts, 1998).

   c. Music plays an important role in the socialization of children and adolescents because it provides a common ground where teenagers can start relationships (The American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009).

*Transition from first main point to second main point: Let’s now take a look at what each side of this issue wants to see happen in order to prevent conflict.*

*(Satisfaction step)*
A. There are many different opinions on how to address musical influences in our society.

1. Adults favor censorship and protectiveness when it comes to their children and the use of music.
   
   a. Pediatricians should encourage parents to take an active role in monitoring the type of music to which their children and adolescents are exposed and to be aware of the music they purchase. Parents can find lyrics by typing ‘music lyrics’ into an Internet search engine and accessing 1 or more of the Web sites that appear. Pediatricians also should counsel parents and caregivers to monitor and regulate television-viewing according to the age and maturity of their children and adolescents (The American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009).

   b. The public, and parents in particular, should be aware of and use the music industry's parental advisory warning of explicit content. The advisory label is a black-and-white logo and should be located on the front of the CD, cassette, album, videocassette, or DVD. It may help protect children from certain offensive materials (The American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009).

2. Young adults and children favor more freedom so they can explore their intelligence and independence.
   
   a. According to O’Donnell in “Music and the Brain,” “Music was the key that helped Albert Einstein become one of the smartest men who has ever lived.” This was because the “simultaneous left and right brain action maximizes learning and
retention of information” which is caused by the rhythm of music (O’Donnell, 1999).

b. “Music is well-known to connect deeply with adolescents and to influence identity development, perhaps more than any other entertainment medium,” said the study authors (Parker-Pope, 2008).

**Transition from second main point to third main point:** Let's, finally, look at what the world would be like if each side’s provisions were followed.

(Visualization step)

B. Music plays a huge role in our “sociological imagination.” This means that when provisions are set in place to mold musical influences, people will see a tremendous change in our culture (Longhurst, 2007).

1. Parents believe that the best way to protect their children is to prevent them from listening to certain music and keeping them from going to dances. If parents just stop letting their children listen to the types of music they like, their children are going to sneak around which is a very unhealthy behavior.

2. Young people believe that one of the best ways to express themselves and release stress is through music and dance. There are many different types of music and ways of dancing. These outlets are very important of children’s development. By using these outlets, teenagers and young adults are able to release stress and be themselves.

*Keeping all the information that I just gave you in mind, let’s discuss your opinions on this matter as well as talk about some steps to take to insure most people’s happiness.*
III. CONCLUSION

(Action step)

A. Summary statement: As shown by the information in my speech today, there are both good and bad influences that come with music and dancing, but we must show the youth of America that we care enough about them to protect them while letting them be an individual.

B. Audience response statement: The last thing you would ever want is for your child to resent you or shut you out because you did not let them express themselves and be who they wanted to be.

C. WOW statement: Music is always going to be influential in young people’s lives. How we approach this impact is crucial to the healthy and happy development of our youth.
References


