

## SAMPLE PERSUASIVE OUTLINE

### Volunteering in Your Community

**Specific Purpose:** To persuade the members of my audience to volunteer in their local community.

**Thesis Statement:** Volunteering in your local community will help those around you and help you feel like you contributed something positive.

**Organizational Pattern:** Monroe's Motivated Sequence

#### Introduction (Attention)

- I. Attention-Getting Device—Has anyone ever stopped to help you when you were in need? How did it make you feel?
- II. Introduce Your Topic—Volunteering in your local community is great way to give back and set a positive example.
- III. Demonstrating the Importance—If we all did something to help those in need, we would have a better and safer community and have a greater sense of accomplishment. I try and do one volunteer activity each month and can tell you of the personal benefits from volunteering.
- IV. Preview of Main Points—Today, I will discuss the needs in our community, ways you can help, and what our community might look like if we all gave a hand.

#### Body

- I. Need: The problems in our community are great and affect us all.
  - A. Families living in poverty in our community have significant needs, which need to be addressed.
    1. This increased rate of poverty has been especially tough on the children.
      - a. There has been an increase in preventable childhood diseases (CDC, 2009).
      - b. Many of these children only get a full meal during school at lunch, so many of these children go hungry.
      - c. At the same time, standardized test scores for these children have been decreasing.
    2. Because of the increased levels of poverty in our community, shelters and food pantries are over capacity.
      - a. The largest homeless shelter has started to limit the amount of time a person can stay due to increased demand (MLive.com, 2010).
      - b. One food pantry has had to limit its operating hours simply because it does not have enough food (personal communication, 2010).
  - B. The crime rates in our community have increased due to the increases in poverty.
    1. The local paper reports a 14% increase in petty theft of property (Kalamazoo Gazette, 2010).
    2. The community police report that many of these increased thefts are due to people pawning stolen property to pay for food and medicine.

*Transition: Clearly our local community is in great need, but fortunately there are many ways to solve some of these problems.*

- II. Satisfaction: If we all agreed to volunteer at least once a month to help out those in need, many of the problems could be alleviated.
  - A. According to the local food pantry, it is always in need of more canned goods.
    1. One step would be for us to create a continuous food drive in our residential halls here at college and encourage students to donate a few cans of food each week.
    2. The food pantry also is currently seeking long-term volunteers to help organize and deliver food to those in need.

- B. The local elementary schools can establish an after-school program made up of college students to interact with children affected by poverty.
  - 1. In this program, college students could read, play basketball, and generally serve as good role models.
  - 2. The volunteers in this program could better help find resources for the parents to utilize to help their children succeed in school.
- C. Because of the high demand and lack of resources, the homeless shelter is currently in need of repairs and could use college student workers to clean, repaint, and repair parts of the shelter.

*Transition: Now that I have talked about three specific areas in which we could volunteer to help our local community, I now will discuss some of the benefits.*

- III. Visualization: Helping the local community deal with our poverty issues will benefit us all.
  - A. First, children would be better served in our community through the increased help at the food pantry and the after-school program.
    - 1. Studies have found that after-school programs help greatly with increasing standardized test scores (Little, Wimer, & Weiss, 2007).
    - 2. Additionally, children who have positive role models are less likely to become involved in criminal activity as teenagers (Boyes, Hornick, & Ogden, 2010).
  - B. Second, this plan of action would greatly enhance the ability of local officials and service providers to solve the problems in our community.
    - 1. By volunteering, we are freeing up the time of officials and service providers to find other governmental solutions to the needs of the community.
    - 2. Also, by volunteering, we are giving the workers at the food pantry and shelters some much needed relief.
  - C. Third, this plan would help decrease some of the crime related to petty theft.
  - D. Lastly, volunteering to help your fellow citizens will make you feel better.
    - 1. I find that, even if I am having a bad day, by volunteering I realize that I can make a difference in the world, and my mood lifts.
    - 2. Plus, volunteering is not a bad thing to put on your résumé.

*Transition: With our volunteering efforts, we can make a brighter day for those in our community.*

## **Conclusion**

- I. Restate Thesis and Main Points—Today, I discussed why we all should volunteer to help those in need, provided three easy things you can do to help out, and demonstrated some of the benefits of volunteering.
- II. Concluding Device—You never know when you might need help one day.
  - A. I encourage you all to volunteer in our community to help those in need.
    - 1. A sheet of paper that has the web addresses and phone numbers for whom to contact to volunteer is coming around the room.
    - 2. Also, you will find the campus volunteering office information if you would like more information.
  - B. Please do your part to help our community reach its highest potential.

## SAMPLE KEYWORD PERSUASIVE OUTLINE

### Introduction (Attention)

- I. Attention-Getting Device—Has anyone ever stopped to help you when you were in need? How did it make you feel?
- II. Introduce Your Topic—Volunteering in community.
- III. Demonstrating the Importance—We all should help, and I volunteer.
- IV. Preview of Main Points—Needs in our community, ways you can help, and future if we help.

### Body

- I. Need: The problems affect us all.
  - A. Families living in poverty have needs.
    1. Increased rate of poverty has been tough on the children.
      - a. Increase childhood diseases (CDC, 2009).
      - b. Children go hungry.
      - c. Standardized test scores decreasing.
    2. Shelters and food pantries are over capacity.
      - a. Homeless shelter limiting time to stay (MLive, 2009).
      - b. Food pantry limiting operating hours (personal communication, 2010).
  - B. The crime rates increased due to the increases in poverty.
    1. 14% increase in petty theft of property (Kalamazoo Gazette, 2010).
    2. People pawning stolen property to pay for food and medicine.

#### *Transition*

- II. Satisfaction: Volunteer at least once a month.
  - A. Need for more canned goods.
    1. Continuous food drive in our residential halls.
    2. Long-term volunteers to help organize and deliver food to those in need.

- B. Establish an after-school program.
  - 1. College students serve as role models.
  - 2. Find resources for the parents.
- C. Homeless shelter needs students to work.

*Transition*

III. Visualization: Helping will benefit us all.

- A. Children better served.
  - 1. After-school programs increasing standardized test scores (Little, Wimer, & Weiss, 2007).
  - 2. Positive role models help decrease teenage crime rate (Boyes, Hornick, & Ogden, 2010).
- B. Enhance the ability of others to solve the problems.
  - 1. Freeing up the time of officials and service providers.
  - 2. Giving workers at the food pantry and shelters some much needed relief.
- C. Decrease crime rates.
- D. Volunteering makes us feel better.
  - 1. Personal mood.
  - 2. Résumé.

*Transition*

**Conclusion**

- I. Restate Thesis and Main Points—Why we all should volunteer, three easy things you can do to help out, and some of the benefits of volunteering.
- II. Concluding Device—You never know when you might need help one day.
  - A. I encourage you all to volunteer in our community to help those in need.
    - 1. Paper with contact information.
    - 2. Campus volunteering office information.
  - B. Please do your part.