Organizational Pattern: Problem – cause – solution

Speech Goal: To persuade my audience to donate their time and/or money an organization that helps at-risk youth in the community and/or become a positive role model to a youth in the community.

**Creating a Positive World for the Youth of Today**

1. Introduction
2. Tell my story
3. Who I am today
   1. Life growing up
      1. Left the church
      2. Parents divorced
   2. The lack of community support and a broken home caused problems
4. Today I want to tell you about the importance of creating a positive world for your friends, brother, sister, son, or daughter by providing them with encouraging and heartening support.
5. We will be looking at:
6. The factors that the youth face today and the warning signs of a youth at risk.
7. Some of the causes as to why youth may become at-risk.
8. And ultimately, look at a positive solution to this problem.

**TRANSITION:** First, I will share with you some of the issues that adolescents and teens face and the warning signs of a youth at risk.

II. ISSUES/ PROBLEMS

1. According to the website AtRisk.org, “What defines an “At-Risk” Youth?” the youth of today are faced with many stresses including: substance abuse, family life, and violence.
2. The article “Sobering statistics on adolescent substance abuse,” states…
3. From 2008 to 2010
   1. The number of teenagers who admitted to using marijuana increased from 32 percent to 39 percent.
4. “As part of the results of the Partnership Attitude Tracking study,” mentioned in the article, “45 percent of 2,500 high school students surveyed, said they don’t see a “great risk” in drinking heavily [everyday].”
5. According to Anika Doggett, author of “Juvenile Delinquency and Family Structure”…
6. “Families are one of the strongest socializing forces in life. They teach children to control unacceptable behavior, to delay gratification, and to respect the rights of others (3).”
7. As maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Youth Violence: Facts at a Glance, 2010”…
8. In a 2009 nationally representative sample of youth in grades 9-12
   1. 11.1% reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.
9. In 2008, more than 656,000 young people ages 10 to 24 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from violence.
10. As indicated by the website At-risk.org, a few warning signs that a teen may be at risk are:
11. Does the teen sometimes lie regarding their activities?
12. Is the teen verbally abusive?
13. Does the teen lack self-worth and self-esteem?
14. Does the teen associate with a suspect peer group?

**TRANSITION:** Next, I will talk about some of the causes as to why youth may become at-risk.

III. CAUSES

1. At-risk.org states that parents, adolescents and teens, and peers may all contribute to a youth becoming at-risk.
2. Parents
3. In the article, “Family Life, Delinquency, and Crime: A Policymakers Guide,” Wright and Wright observe that “Children who are rejected by their parents, who grow up in homes with considerable conflict, or who are inadequately supervised are at the greatest risk of becoming delinquent.”
4. Adolescents and Teens
5. The article further remarks on how youth look at the world and themselves; stating that they believe they are indestructible and untouchable to their consequences of tomorrow.
6. Teens and adolescents tend to worry about what other people think and this can lead them to give into peer pressure.
7. Per the article “Teenage Peer Pressure: Statistics and Facts,” …
   1. “The Kaiser Foundation reports that about 50% of teenagers feel pressured with regard to sex in relationships”
   2. “The Adolescent Substance Abuse Knowledge Base reports that right around 30% of teens are offered drugs in middle school and high school”
   3. “According to the National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 74.3% of high school students have tried alcohol.”

**TRANSITION:** At the end of the day, what can be done to help prevent adolescents from becoming at-risk: provide them with positive social support.

IV. SOLUTION(S)

* 1. Positive Social Support
  2. According to the article “Teen Peer Pressure,” parents should…

1. Open lines of communication between themselves and their children
2. Get to know their child’s friends
3. Be involved
4. Encourage their child and be supportive
5. Community Involvement

C. Police Athletic League of Sarasota or PAL. It’s website records that …

* 1. PAL serves over 1,200 young people by providing a safe environment for them to participate, learn, and achieve positive relationships.
  2. The youth also learn self respect and self worth which will help them overcome the negative influences they face.

**TRANSITION:** In closing…

V. Conclusion

* + - 1. Today we have learned of some of the problems youth face today and what may cause them to become at-risk; I have spoken of some of the reasons these stresses are created; and I have offered solutions to help create a positive world for the youth today.
      2. I challenge and urge you to become positive examples to your neighbor, friend, brother, sister, son, or daughter by contributing to the well being of the youth who need our help by giving your time and/or monetary donation to an organization that provides the youth of today inspiring and enriching support, such as the Police Athletic League of Sarasota and/or to become a positive role model to a member of the youth in our community.
      3. From “Within My Power,” quoted on the Police Athletic website, Forest Witcraft pronounced, “A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove…but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.”

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