Sample Speaking Outline

**Topic:** Immigration Reform

**General purpose:** To persuade

**Specific purpose:** To persuade my audience that progressive immigration reform is beneficial to the United States [Claim of value]

**Thesis:** If approached responsibly, progressive immigration reform will benefit the United States in several ways.

**Org. pattern:** Topical

**INTRODUCTION**

I. Poem by Martin Niemöller

II. Explain link between vitriolic rhetoric about Nazism and immigration debate in U.S.
   A. The way we talk (tone) matters
      1. Ann Coulter’s 2013 article
      2. Undermines principles of democracy
   B. Responsibility is a virtue
      1. Statue of Liberty saying
      2. Viktor Frankl’s (1959) quote

III. Responsible talk about immigration reform

IV. Progressive immigration reform, if approached responsibly, will benefit the United States in several ways.

V. Preview:
   A. Economic benefits
   B. Social benefits
   C. Cultural benefits

**Transition:** Undocumented workers have positively impacted the economy [long pause]
BODY

I. Economic Benefits: Data show that undocumented workers and amnesty laws impact the economy positively, not negatively.
   A. City-to-city study; undocumented workers had little effect on the wages and displacement of U.S. workers (Martin, 2009)
      1. Filling low-wage jobs.
   B. Two decades of research show the 1986 law raised wages and helped lift the economy. 1992 average hourly wages = 15.1% (DoL). 2012 study by the Economic Policy Institute (Woellert, 2013)
      1. History could repeat itself.
   C. CBO = legal status would increase tax revenue by $4.5 billion+; increase gross domestic product by $1.5 trillion over 10 years. (Avilia, 2013)
      1. Revenue would offset increase in social services.

Transition: The economic benefits are many; recap.

II. Social Benefits: Data show that undocumented workers and immigrants with amnesty impact the society positively, foremost in crime reduction. [State stats slowly]
   A. Crime is not an innate characteristic; longitudinal studies indicate a drop in crime (Martinez, Stowell, & Lee, 2010).
      1. Contradicts belief in cause of crime rates
   B. Crime is more common among natural-born citizens. 2008 study by Policy Center = 18–39 are five times more likely to be incarcerated than are their foreign-born peers. Illegal immigrants in the country doubled between 1994 and 2005, violent crime declined by nearly 35% and property crimes by 26% over the same period. Los Angeles = higher share of recent immigrants, but fall in crime. (Kingsbury, 2008)
      1. Consistent with another longitudinal study (Ousey & Kubrin, 2009)
      2. Undocumented or unfettered immigration doesn’t increases crime.
   C. FBI statistics indicates that amnesty for 1% of the population = 2% percent decrease in crime per capita (Mcclure, 2012)
      1. Preponderance of evidence that both undocumented and documented immigrants cause crime rates to go down.

Transition: Economic and social benefits are great, cultural ones are key.
III. Cultural Benefits: Data and anecdotal evidence show that there are many cultural benefits to immigration.

A. Upward mobility increases over time. Indicates assimilation (Jimenez & Fitzgerald, 2007).
   1. Immigrants do not pose a threat to American economic, political, or cultural values.

B. Proud history of serving in the U.S. military; culturally benefits all by protecting our freedoms (Amaya, 2007).
   3. These examples show that immigrants, even undocumented ones, fight to protect the very culture many think they undermine.

   1. There are many ways to achieve diversity.

Transition: Outlined benefits; more to consider. [Long pause]

CONCLUSION
I. Immigrants come to the United States from all parts of the globe. Adds to culture.
II. Benefits to immigration worth noting—must pay attention to tone of conversation, as noted in intro.
III. Different sides of issue; Crime stats do not count undocumented immigration as crime, although some think it is.
IV. Modified quote from intro. [Slow, w/ passion]