

## Example Persuasive Speech:

**Topic:** Organ Donation

**Specific Purpose:** To persuade my audience to donate their organs and tissues when they die and to act upon their decision to donate.

**Thesis Statement:** The need is constantly growing for organ donors and it is very simple to be an organ donor when you die.

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Attention material/Credibility Material: How do you feel when you have to wait for something you really, really want? What if it was something you couldn't live without? Well, my cousin was five years old when he found out he needed a new kidney. He went on the organ waiting list right away. He was called twice during a six month span that they had a kidney available only to find out that the kidney wasn't a good match. He had to wait again. The third time was a charm. A small adult was in an accident and his kidney was a good match. This story had a happy ending but so many do not.
- B. Tie to the audience: One of the people on the waiting list for an organ transplant might be someone you know.
- C. Thesis and Preview: Today I'd like to talk to you about first, the need for organ donors in our area and then how your family and organ donor recipients benefit from you donation.

**[Transition into body of speech]: I'll begin by telling you about the need for organ donors.**

### II. BODY

- A. People around the world but also right here in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, need organ transplants and they need our help
  - a. The problem is that there is a lack of organs and organ donors who make organ transplantation possible.
    - i. The need is many organs and tissues such as the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, corneas, bone, skin, heart valves, and blood vessels(Iowa Statewide Organ Procurement Organization undated brochure).
    - ii. A new name is added to the national waiting list every 16 minutes. That means that 3 people will be added to the list during the time we are in class today.
      - 1. The problem is that 10 people will die each day waiting for an organ transplant (LifeSource: Questions and Answers).
      - 2) The reason is that there are only on the average 5,000 donors nationally per year (LifeSource: Statistics).
    - 2. You can choose to donate any needed organs or you can specify which organs or tissues you wish to donate.

**[Transition: You can see that it isn't difficult to be an organ donor. Now let's look at what may happen if you choose to donate your organs and what may happen if you choose not to.]**

C. Organ donation benefits both the donor's family and the recipients.

1. If you do donate your organs, your family and the people who receive your organs might benefit in a similar way like this family. A seventeen year old died of head injuries in a car accident. His mom decided to donate his organs. His heart went to a prison chaplain, his kidneys went to a mother of 5 children and a Vietnam vet. The Vietnam vet is "energetic" and finally is getting his college degree. The teenager gave life to others and his family feels a sense of satisfaction and comfort that other lives have been touched by his (University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics 1991 brochure).
2. The problem arises when you are thinking about becoming a donor but never do anything about it. Then, no one knows your wishes and your organs will not be donated. The consequences of this are more people waiting for organs and there will still be an incredible shortage of available organs.

### III. CONCLUSION:

- A. **Brakelight/Transition:** As you can easily see, donating your organs can be one of the most important decisions you ever make and also the greatest gift you could ever give.
- B. **Summary:** I've told you about the need for organ donors in our area, and how your family and organ recipients benefit from your donation. You become a donor by talking to your family and making sure they know you want to be a donor, fill out and sign a donor card, and indicate your wishes on your driver's license.
- C. **Tie Back to the Audience:** What if the person waiting on the list needing an organ transplant was someone you loved? Imagine if you had a brother or sister who had unexpectedly died and you were able to meet the person who received their heart, for example. Think of the satisfaction and possible comfort knowing that your brother or sister provided life for somebody else.
- D. **Concluding Remarks:** I'm going to leave you with a short message from Michael Jordan who is a sponsor for the Iowa LifeGift Coalition on Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness and appears in their 1996 brochure. "Please make the decision to become an organ and tissue donor. Remember: Share your life. Share your decision."

## WORKS CITED

1. Gundersen Lutheran Hospital (Lacrosse, WI): "Life...Pass It On." Undated brochure. Iowa LifeGift Coalition on Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness: "Share Your Life, Share Your Decision." 1996 brochure. Iowa Statewide Organ Procurement Organization: "Be an organ donor...it's the chance of a lifetime!" undated brochure.
2. LifeSource:Newsnotes. October 1998. Accessed November 2, 1998.  
[www.lifesource.org/newsnotes.htm](http://www.lifesource.org/newsnotes.htm).
3. LifeSource: Questions and Answers. April 1998. Accessed November 2, 1998. <[www.lifesource.org/public.htm](http://www.lifesource.org/public.htm)>.
4. LifeSource: Statistics. October 1998. Accessed November 2, 1998. <[www.lifesource.org/statistics.htm](http://www.lifesource.org/statistics.htm)>.
5. South Dakota Lions Eye Bank: "No Greater Gift...Than Yourself To Others." Undated brochure.
6. University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics: "A Circle of Life: The Gift of Organ and Tissue Donation."1991 brochure.