

Name Student K

Teacher Gardner

Class 1st Hour

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Ronald Reagan Informative Speech

Topic: The Life and Leadership of Ronald Reagan

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: At the end of the speech, the audience will know about the life, leadership, and legacy of Ronald Reagan.

Thesis: Ronald Reagan lived a very interesting life and had a very beneficial presidency.

I. Introduction

A. Attention Getter: "It's true hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance?" This is a quote that was given by Ronald Reagan, America's 40th President, about his workload as President.

B. Motivational Link: The audience should listen to my speech because I think he was a very influential president and helped America through several things during this time period.

C. Credibility Statement:

1. Personally, this topic touches me because I did a report on him in 2nd grade and really enjoyed learning about him. I am very interested in his life and leadership. I also think he was very beneficial as a President for America.

2. The research that I have done to establish credibility, is looking at more than one source and watching a couple videos on one source.

D. Thesis & Preview of Main Points: (this preview should reinforce the mode you have selected)

1. Thesis: Ronald Reagan lived a very interesting life and had a very beneficial presidency.

1. First, I will describe the early life and career of Ronald Reagan.

2. Second, I will examine his growth to presidency and how he became president.

3. Third, I will discuss his leadership as the president of our country.

II. His Life and Career

A. He was born on February 6, 1911 ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com*,...).

1. His parents were John Edward "Jack" Reagan and Nellie Wilson Reagan ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com*,...).

2. Because his father thought that he resembled "a fat little dutchman," he call Ronald "Dutch" ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com*,...).

B. He attended Dixon High School.

1. While there, he participated in sports.

2. He also was student body president ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com*,...).

C. He attended Eureka college ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com*,...).

1. He majored in sociology and economics ("Ronald Reagan." *The White*).

2. At college, Ronald Reagan was student body president, he played football and track,

was captain of the swim team, and performed in many school productions (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com*).

- D. Before he became president, Ronald Reagan had an occupation as an actor
 - 1. He acted in about 53 films (“Ronald Reagan.” *The White*).
 - a. He signed a contract with Warner Bro’s (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - 2. He acted in *Knute Rockne, All American*, in 1940. In this film, Reagan portrayed a Notre Dame Football star, named George Gipp (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - a. He is nicknamed the Gipper because of this (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - 3. He also acted in *King’s Row* as a person who had their legs amputated in an accident (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - 4. As his acting career progressed, Ronald Reagan became the president of the Screen of Actors Guild from 1947-1952 (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
- E. Ronald Reagan signed up for combat duty during World War II.
 - 1. It was later found out that he had poor eyesight.
 - 2. Because of this he was not able to fight, but he continued to stay there and he shot training videos instead of guns (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
- F. Ronald Reagan has married twice, once to Jane Wyman and then to Nancy Davis (“Ronald Reagan.” *The White*).
 - 1. In his first marriage to Jane Wyman he had two kids.
 - a. He had a daughter who was named Maureen and an adopted son named Michael (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - 2. His second marriage, which was to Nancy Davis, also had two kids.
 - a. One of their kids was named Patricia Ann and the other Ronald (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - b. They met when Nancy told Reagan that she was on the blacklist for Hollywood because she was a possible sympathizer for communism (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).

Transition: As Reagan’s acting career came to an end, he became more and more interested in politics.

III. His growth to presidency

- A. His political views went from liberal to conservative and then he ran for the governor of California (“Ronald Reagan.” *The White*).
 - 1. He was elected as governor in 1966 against Democrat Edmund “Pat” Brown Sr (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - 2. He won by almost 1 million votes (“Ronald Reagan.” *Biography.com,...*).
 - 3. He was reelected for governor in 1970 (“Ronald Reagan.” *The White*).
- B. After becoming governor and serving in that position for two years, he attempted to run for president.
 - 1. In 1976, he attempted to win the Republican presidential nomination against Jerry Ford

but Reagan lost (Noonan).

2. Reagan then won the Presidency against Democrat Jimmy Carter in 1980 ("Ronald Reagan." *The White*).

a. Ronald Reagan won 489 to 49 in electoral votes and he captured 51% of the popular vote ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com,...*).

3. He gave his inauguration speech on January 20, 1981 ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com,...*).

4. He now was America's 40th President ("Ronald Reagan." *The White*).

Transition: When Ronald Reagan became President, he had many goals that he wished to accomplish and different problems that he had to deal with.

IV. Reagan's leadership as President

A. Reagan became President during a very difficult time for America

1. The Cold War was occurring and he had to deal with the Soviet Union (Noonan).

a. With his leadership, the soviet union collapsed.

2. The economy needed to recover and it did for about seven years ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com,...*).

B. Ronald Reagan had many goals for America.

1. Reagan wanted to turn America into "a beacon of hope for those who do not have freedom ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com,...*).

2. He wanted peace and America to become a freer country (Noonan).

3. Reagan wanted "Peace through strength" ("Ronald Reagan." *The White*).

C. During his presidency many things improved.

1. He strengthened national defense, increased employment, and stimulated the growth of economics ("Ronald Reagan." *The White*).

2. He once said "Government is not the solution to our problems; government is the problem"

D. Shortly after becoming President, there was an assassin that tried to kill Reagan.

1. The would-be assassin's name was John Hinckley Jr.

2. Ronald Reagan was shot along with three others but none fatally

3. Reagan was rushed to the hospital where they discovered that he had been shot in one of his lungs and the bullet barely missed his heart.

4. Despite this, Reagan returned to work several weeks later.

5. He is known for telling his wife that he "forgot to duck" ("Ronald Reagan." *Biography.com*).

V. Conclusion

A. Review of Main Points:

1. Ronald Reagan's life and career were not always centered around politics.

2. Ronald Reagan's path to presidency.

3. Ronald Reagan's leadership and how he led America.

B. **Restate Thesis:** Ronald Reagan lived a very interesting life and had a very beneficial presidency.

C. **Closure:** Ronald Reagan once said "Hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance?" He said this about his workload but he still ran the country and got all the work done. Ronald Reagan lived a life that was not always about politics but he became America's 40th President.

Works Cited

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