

Example of Speech of Personal Success Outline

- General Purpose: To inform
- Specific Purpose: By the end of my speech the audience will be able to appreciate the efforts that went into acquiring my first vehicle.
- Central Idea: The acquisition of my first car was the result of determination and tenacity.
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(YOU DO NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOVE THIS LINE DURING YOUR SPEECH)

Introduction

- 1) It was a long way. I'm talkin' a l-o-n-g way out to our home in the country. It wasn't like a straight shot where a vehicle could get in the groove and just go. No, the seemingly endless trip meandered down winding roads and through quaint farmland for what seemed like an eternity. At least it seemed like an eternity when I had to ride the bus or ride in the family Buick 20 miles each way to school or town.
- 2) Maybe you didn't live out so far, but you probably yearned at some time in your youth for a vehicle that would give you your independence.
- 3) The acquisition of my first car was the result of determination and tenacity.
- 4) Well, all those bus trips back and forth gave me plenty of time to think about living in the country, how I was going to get a car, and what a vehicle of my own meant to me.

Transition: So let me start this story

Body

- 5) When I was young, old highways were the norm and the I-5 freeway was brand new.
 - a) My family lived on a farm way out in the country in Coos County
 - b) Since there weren't a lot of people in the area, the closest neighbor lived two miles away
 - c) When I was little, it wasn't so bad being out so far
 - i) However, as I grew older I wanted to spend more time with my friends in town
 - ii) Unfortunately, that meant if I couldn't ride the school bus to someone's house I had to depend on parents for transportation

Transition: Now that you see the desperate situation facing me as an isolated young kid, I want to tell you about my journey to independence.

- 6) I decided the only option I had was to get some wheels. At that point I wasn't really thinking style, I was thinking internal combustion and tires.
 - a) First, I had to find a way to get back in forth without a school bus or relying totally on my parents.
 - i) I located several of my friends' parents who could drop me off at home as they passed by on their way home from work during weekdays
 - b) Even though I didn't have rides for the weekend, I decided I would look for a Saturday job anyway.
- 7) I started asking around town at businesses for part-time work after school or on the weekends.
 - a) I was able to find part-time jobs cleaning houses after school.
 - b) I also got a Saturday job at the garden and feed store, and a co-worker took me home each day, and my parents were happy to drive me to work each Saturday morning.
- 8) Several years later, I had enough money to buy a car-well, almost.

- a) Even though I'd saved as best I could, the car prices in the paper were either too high or the cars were dumps. I realized getting the money was one thing; finding a good car was quite another.

9) My dad called his friend who owned a wrecking yard and found out he had a red Javelin for sale. To me, it was 'a dream come true.' The guy let me put a chunk of money down and paid him the rest each month till it was paid off.

Transition: So what's the moral of the story?

10) I learned a lot of lessons growing up, but this one was actually a lesson I wouldn't mind repeating.

- a) In short, dreams can come true and perseverance pays off
- b) I'd be lying if I said it wasn't difficult to manage school, work, and rely on others for rides

11) Sometimes it was really a hassle when the people who were giving me rides were ill or had unforeseen circumstances arise that wouldn't allow them to take me home.

- a) But even in those times, I learned there are many people who will help you achieve your dreams if you take the time and effort to go after them.

12) After several months, even if my regular rides couldn't make it on a day, there was generally another person that would volunteer to take me home.

13) I came to realize that people wanted to see me succeed, and because I was an honest, hard worker, they often went out of their way to help me achieve my goal.

Conclusion

14) Well, we've arrived at our destination.

15) You can see that 'way out' country living literally drove me to come up with transportation and a job so I could buy a car-and my independence.

16) Looking back, the acquisition of my first car honestly was the result of determination and tenacity.

17) Yes, it still is a long, long way out to my home from town, but that distance now represents a major personal success in my life