

Taylor Parker

Cornerstone

Mrs. Gruenwald

Monday, October 14, 2013

Christmas Day

INTRODUCTION

- I. **Attention Getter:** “Time spent with family is time well spent. Family is the one constant element of life.”
- II. **Build Rapport:** Christmas isn’t just about opening presents and getting gifts. To me, it’s more about spending time with my family and eating amazing food. I am sure most of you feel the same way.
- III. **Establish Credibility:** In my opinion, Christmas is one of the best days of the year because everyone from my family gathers together to celebrate a day full of joy.
- IV. **Thesis:** One of my favorite holidays of the year is Christmas because all my family gathers together to celebrate the holiday season.
- V. **Preview:** This tradition has been passed down through many generations and is a big part of my life.

Transition: *We leave on Christmas Eve for my Grandma’s house.*

BODY [need 2-3 main points]

I. Christmas Eve

A. Mass

1. We arrive in LeMars, Iowa around 4:30pm, just in time to go to mass at 5:30pm with my grandparents. Majority of my family will not arrive until that next day but we like to head out a day early to help set up and help grandma cook the food.

B. Food

1. After mass, we head back and always order broasted chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese, and potato wedges from KFC. Before we begin eating, we always give grace. Then, we proceed with eating a delicious stress-free meal.

Transition: *The next day comes quicker then ever...*

II. Preparing for the Party

A. Setting up

1. We always wake up early and begin by setting out all the tables and chairs in the garage, basement, and living room. Since my family is very religious, we go to mass a second time on Christmas day. Before we leave, we set the ham and turkey in the oven because it takes awhile to cook.

B. Cooking

1. After mass, we come back to prepare all food. Since we have a huge family, we have to prepare large sizes of food. It is a tradition to make my grandma's speciality, Oreo Whip Cream Fluff. The fluff is a huge hit at every gathering we have. We run out every year since everyone loves it. I also help prepare the mashed potatoes and gravy.
2. My brother's normally help my mom prepare the stuffing and the green bean casserole which are also big hits at the gathering.
3. My aunt Dianne always comes with the deserts, so that is one less thing that we have to worry about.
4. After the cooking is complete, my brothers and I help set out all the food on my Grandma's countertop so that it is easily accessible for all. We serve buffet style so that people can help themselves.

Transition: Then the celebration begins...

III. Celebration

A. Eating together

1. Everyone arrives normally around 4:30pm. Before anyone can get food, we must have a family prayer giving thanks to God. After the prayer ends, everyone gets in line for the amazing food that took all day to prepare.
2. It is great to catch up with everyone you haven't seen in awhile.

B. Proceed to the basement

1. After our family dinner is over, we head to the basement and sing Christmas carols together. Every family member gets there own pamphlet of christmas carols to choose from for the whole family to sing. We each take our turn to pick out the carol to sing.
2. After the celebration is over, everyone either tends to go home or play games at my grandparents house.

Transition: In Conclusion...

CONCLUSION

I. Brakelight/Logical Closure: Being with my family, eating the great food, and watching everyone grow up is the best part of all the Christmas gatherings.

II. **Psychological Closure:** This family tradition is a tradition that will always run in the family, and I'm sure most of you have your own family traditions.

III. **Clincher:** Like i said before, time spent with my family is something that will always be a big part of my life.

WORKS CITED [If references are used]