Speech 1: Informative: Poet

Name: Davina Ramirez

Specific Purpose: Inform class about Countee Cullen, a Harlem Renaissance poet, and discuss the power of words on children.

Central Idea: “Incident” illustrates how a single word can last forever in a child’s mind. It proves the proverb, “The pen is mightier than the sword.”

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

1. Source(s): In what source did you find your poem?

http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/55

http://american-poetry.suite101.com/article.cfm/countee_cullens_incident

http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poet.html?id=1538

2. Visual Aid(s): If you use a picture, where did you locate it?

http://newdeal.feri.org/magpie/images/dwc121.jpg
INTRODUCTION

I.  (Attention Getter)
“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” Is it true?

II.  (Reveal Topic)
“Incident” – very popular poem, power of word to hurt, power of racist words, from a poet who wanted to be “color-blind”

III.  (Credibility Statement) or (Relevancy Statement)
If you’re new to the country you may not know the power of this word, “nigger,” but it’s got a strong history.
Also, small “incidents” in childhood can last a lifetime. Parents - Be careful!

IV.  (Preview)
First, his life
Second, listen to the poem
Finally, meaning to me

(TRANSITION: From theIntro to the Body. Include the exact wording you will use in your speech.)

Ready? Let’s go!

BODY

I.  MAIN POINT 1: Your first main point goes here. It MUST be one complete sentence.

So who was this poet, Countee Cullen?
A. Life.
   Born: 1903, NYC Died, 1946
   Started writing - 14
   Started university – 1922 (19 y. o.)
   Published in many mag.s (The Crisis, Harper’s, Century …)
   Graduated 1923 (after 1 year!)

B. Culture / Attitude to race.
   Part of the Harlem Renaissance
   Raised with whites
   Believed in “color-blind” society – Race should not matter
   Ironically! Best poems about race
(Transition: Let’s move on to his poetry.)

II. **MP 2:** Your second MAIN POINT goes here. Follow the same style that you used for the first one. So, what was Cullen’s best-known poem? “Incident”

   A. Read poem 1ce
   B. Read poem 2ce

(Transition: Did you get it?)

III. **MP 3:** Your final MAIN POINT goes here. Follow the same style that you used for the first one. So, what does this mean? I can tell you 2 possible meanings, both important to me.

   A. “Nigger” – Commonly used these days
      Often heard in rap
      I used to use this word
      Change in attitude (teenager to now)
      History – I was unaware before, know better now

   B. “Small pitchers have big ears” – Children are so sensitive!
      A few memories like this
      Mostly feel responsible for my child
      Want to protect my child: is it possible?

TRANSITION: (From Body to Conclusion. Include the exact wording)

   Well, my time is up today ...

**CONCLUSION** - Your reason for choosing the poem may go here

I. **(Summary Statement)**
   Today I’ve shared some info about CC
   Remember – name, time period, Harlem Renaissance
   And please – remember this poem and its lessons

II. **(Memorable Closing Statement)**
   “Sticks and stones ...”
   What do you think now?