Student Speech Analysis: The Hidden World of Chili Peppers

Speech Introduction

In The Hidden World of Chili Peppers the speaker provides information about the history, science, and uses of chili peppers. Overall the introduction is effective. It engages the audience through relating to people's experiences. The speaker begins by engaging the audience with asking them to imagine how their mouth would feel on fire, eyes water and face go red after eating something super spicy. This allows the audience to imagine the scenario and become interested in what the speaker will be talking about.

The speaker then goes onto build their credibility by saying that they enjoy eating spicy foods so decided to do some research into why they cause these intense feelings. This is effective as it shows they really have an interest in the topic. The speaker then goes on to give a brief overview of what they will be discussing throughout the talk. They mention they will be discussing the history of chili peppers, why they are spicy, ways of reducing the burning sensation and the non-food uses. This gives us as the audience a clear idea of what to expect throughout the lesson. Overall the introduction does what it set out to do as it is engaging, builds credibility and sets up the speech with a logical structure.

Body and Signposts

The body is well structured as the speaker has laid out the information into 4 main points that flow together. The first talking about the history of chili peppers and how they made there way around the world. The second goes into detail about capsaicin within the peppers and how it causes a burning sensation. Then how to cure that burning sensation and finally the uses outside of food such as self protection and law enforcement, and for medical purposes.

I believe this has good structure as it covers all aspects of the subject without repeating any key points. The speaker also adds in some useful extra information such as explaining the Scoville scale and how researchers measure the heat of the chili peppers. This makes the presentation much more informative.

The speaker also cites sources throughout his speech. He has cited The Cambridge World History of Food when talking about how the chili peppers spread, P.W Bosland when talking about how they are measured for heat and the Chili Pepper Institute at New Mexico State University when talking about how to cure the burning sensation. This helps him to appear more credible as his information is backed up with research.

The speaker has also used signposts throughout his presentation. After talking about the history of chili peppers, he moves onto how they work scientifically. "Now that we know a little bit about the history of chili pepper, let's see why they can put such a fire in our belly." This is very effective as it links the two key points together. However, some of the scientific information

could be simplified. Words like high-performance liquid chromatography may be hard to understand for someone who isn't familiar with the subject so adding in a short explanation using simple language would help people understand what you are talking about.

Speech Conclusion

I believe that this is an effective conclusion as he has made it clear it is the end of his presentation. The phrase 'In closing' gives an important cue to the audience that he is coming to the end of his presentation. He gives a summary of why chili peppers are important by explaining where they come from, how popular they are around the world, how they can be used, and how they are being used in medical research.

He gives an interesting final thought to leave the audience with by mentioning how new applications could be discovered in the future.

Although this is an effective summary of the information, I feel it could be more memorable if he had linked back to the imagery in his introduction. If he had linked the burning feeling at the beginning of his speech to the scientific information he provided throughout his speech, it would have given a stronger closure. Overall the conclusion has fulfilled its main purpose of indicating the end of the presentation and reminding the audience what the main message was.

Overall Impressions

Overall, I feel that this is a well-structured informative speech. The introduction is very engaging, information is clearly laid out, and is backed up by good research. The topic is something people will be familiar with and has been explained from multiple angles.

I really like how this presentation flows into scientific explanations after some background history. Then onto practical applications. It has been cited throughout which helps add to the credibility of the speech. Transitions have been used throughout to link each key point.

I would suggest some improvements to this presentation. Some of the scientific terminology is quite complex and could have been simplified to make the speech more accessible. The conclusion could also have been improved to tie back into the introduction.

Overall, this presentation shows how an informative speech can take a basic topic and make it engaging by being well prepared, structured and having credible evidence to back up the information given. Although there are areas to improve on, the main points have been effectively communicated and the audience will now have a better understanding of chili peppers.