Application Exercise – Outlining the Informative Speech
Murdock – Spring 2012

Below you will find a collection of facts, opinions, notes from sources and information a student compiled in preparation for writing an informational speech. From the information below,

1. Create a specific purpose and central idea for an informational speech.
2. Organize the information into groups of similar information. For this assignment, literally cut apart the information and paste or tape these pieces of information in groupings that make sense to create main points.
3. Next, create an outline with a full CARRP introduction, two to four main points with supporting information in sub points and a complete conclusion with a lead in, summary and good closing line.
4. Add in suggested places for visuals and what those visuals could be.

Information

  - a tornado is a "violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground and pendant from a thunderstorm." Therefore, thunderstorms are the first step in the creation of a tornado.

  - the deadliest tornado in U.S. recorded history occurred in Murphysboro, Illinois. In 1925 a violent tornado killed 234 people in this Southern Illinois town.
  - Conditions needed for a tornado to form: First, moisture in the lower to mid levels of the atmosphere. Second, unstable air. This is air that will continue rising once it begins rising from near the ground. The final condition for the formation of tornado-producing thunderstorms is a lifting force. A lifting force is a mechanism that cause the air to begin rising. The most common lifting force is heating of the air (which is why we experience so many thunderstorms in the spring as the air begins to warm).
  - The strongest thunderstorms typically form in warm, humid air that's east or south of advancing cold air.
  - Graph – shows "Tornado Alley" that includes much of the Midwest, including Iowa. We get big thunderstorms that can produce tornadoes because of the cold air from the west and north combining with the warm air from the Gulf of Mexico
  - although violent tornadoes account for only 2% of all tornadoes, they are responsible for 67% of all deaths in tornadoes
  - the Great Bend, Kansas tornado of November 1915 is a tornado which seems to have the greatest number of oddities associated with it. At Grant Jones' store, the south wall was blown down and scattered, but shelves and canned goods that stood against the wall were not moved. The Riverside Steam Laundry, build of stone and cement block, was completely destroyed, yet two nearby wooden shacks were untouched. A cancelled check from Great Bend was found in a corn field, one mile outside of Palmyra, Nebraska….305 miles to the northeast. This is the longest know distance that debris has ever been carried.
  - The "plucked chicken" remains today as perhaps the most talked about tornado oddity. Indeed, this oddity has been associated with many Iowa tornadoes. Within the damage descriptions of rural tornadoes, there are often stories of a chicken "stripped clean of every feather." It has long been thought that the feathers explode off the bird in the tornado's low pressure. The most likely explanation for the defeathering of a chicken is the protective response called "flight molt." As noted by Tornado Project Online!, "chickens are not stripped clean, but in actuality they lose a large
percentage of their feathers under stress in this flight molt process.” In short, when the chickens become scared their feathers become loose and are simply blown off.

  o tornado researchers use a scale, known as the Fujita-Pearson Tornado Intensity Scale (named after its creators) to rate the intensity of tornadoes - Basic Categories are F0-F1 – Weak, F2-F3 Strong, F4-F5 – Violent  

  Weak tornadoes Account for 69% of all tornadoes, and winds are less than 110 mph.  
  Strong tornadoes account for 29% of all tornadoes and winds range from 110 to 205 mph.  
  Violent tornadoes represent only 2% of all tornadoes, and winds exceed 205 mph.

  o most tornadoes have damage paths 150 feet wide, move at about 30 miles per hour and last only a few minutes. However, extremely violent tornadoes, like the one that ripped through Murphysboro, Illinois, may be over a mile wide, travel at 60 miles per hour and may stay on the ground for more than one hour.

  o Stories of strange events are typical in the wake of the damage caused by tornadoes.  
  o In a 1984 Kansas tornado a man, apparently thinking that his mobile home would be destroyed, ran to shelter in another building, only to have that building destroyed (killing the man), while his trailer survived just fine.

  o Iowa ties with Kansas and Texas for the most F5 (worst) tornadoes in the country (6 since 1951) In 2011 there were 51 tornadoes in Iowa. April 9th – 20 tornadoes