

The Problem with Pennies

Speech by Susan Ingraham

The opening quotations capture attention with their clever variations on traditional saying about pennies.

The contrast between the three traditional sayings quoted here and the variations on those sayings presented in paragraph 1 provides a witty way for the speaker to lead into revealing her topic and stating her central idea. The final sentence of this paragraph - "It's time to let the dinosaur of our economy go extinct" - is especially effective.

The speaker begins this paragraph with three questions that most listeners have in their minds at this stage of the speech. By stating that she changed her mind about these questions as a result of her research, the speaker suggests that listeners should change their minds too.

The speaker starts the body of her speech by stating her first main point- **that pennies cause problems for individuals, for businesses, and for the nation as a whole.** He repeated use of "you" throughout this paragraph relates the topic to the audience and helps draw them into

"A nickel for your thoughts, "A nickel saved is a nickel earned." "Nickels from heaven."

Okay, maybe these phrases don't have quite the same ring as the original sayings "A penny for your thoughts." "A penny saved is a penny earned," and "Pennies from heaven." But it's a fact of our nation's economic life that the penny is becoming obsolete. Inflation over the past few decades has been the death of penny candy, penny arcades, and penny bubble gum. The fact is that pennies don't buy anything any more. The age of the penny is over. It's time to let this dinosaur of our economy go extinct.

Sure, most of you say, pennies can be annoying. But why do we have to get rid of them? Why we must change something that's worked for so long? And what would we do without pennies? I had the same questions when I started working on this speech. But as a result of my research, I'm convinced that the continued use of pennies is a costly problem and that we can get along just fine without them. Today, I hope to convince you of the same thing.

The place to begin is by noting that pennies cause problems for individuals, for businesses, and for the nation as a whole. Many Americans consider pennies a useless annoyance. According to my class survey, about two-third of you find pennies bothersome. They take up space and add weight to your pockets, wallets,

the speech.

The speaker uses statistics and an example to support her claim that many people don't use pennies. The story from Noel Gunther works well because it is richly textured and recounts a situation with which many college students can identify.

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A transition bridging the first and the second main points helps listeners keep track of where the speaker is in the speech.

Now the speaker moves into her second main point, **in which she presents a solution to the problems caused by pennies. The solution has four steps, each of which is explained clearly and concisely so listeners will understand exactly what the speaker is proposing.**

...

Having presented her plan, the speaker now shows its **practicality**. In this paragraph, she argues that pennies can be eliminated from the U.S. economy today as easily as half-cent coins were eliminated during the nineteenth-century.

The opening quotations capture attention with their clever variations on traditional saying about pennies.

The contrast between the three

and purses. They get in the way when you're trying to find other coins. They slow down checkout lines when you have to search for exact change. And most of the time when you really need coins-for copy machines, pay phones, and vending machines-you can't use pennies anyway.

In fact, many people don't use pennies. a survey by the U.S. Mint showed that only half of the 12,000 people questioned use pennies on a daily basis. ...

You can now see the magnitude of the problem with pennies. fortunately, it's a problem that can be easily solved.

The solution I recommend is similar to a plan supported by the Con Coalition, a group working to eliminate pennies from our economy. The plan has four basic steps. First,...

I admit that it may be hard to imagine a world without pennies, but

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Sure, most of you say, pennies can be annoying. But why do we have to get rid of them? Why must we change something that's worked for so long? And what would we do without pennies? I had the same questions when I started working on this speech. But as a result of my research, I'm convinced that the continued use of pennies is a costly problem and that we can get along just fine without them. Today, I hope to convince you of the same thing.

The place to begin is by noting that pennies cause problems for individuals, for businesses, and for the nation as a whole. Many Americans consider pennies a useless annoyance. According to my class survey, about two-thirds of you find pennies bothersome. They take up space and add weight to your pockets, wallets, and purses. They get in the way when you're trying to find other coins. They slow down checkout lines when you have to search for exact change. And most of the time when you really need coins-for copy machines, pay phones, and vending machines-you can't use pennies anyway.

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Having presented her plan, the speaker now shows its practicality. In this paragraph, she argues that pennies can be eliminated from the U.S. economy today as easily as half-cent coins were eliminated during the nineteenth-century.

The speaker begins her conclusion by summarizing her main points.

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I admit that it may be hard to imagine a world without pennies, but

In conclusion, pennies create problems for individuals, for business, and for the nation as a whole... And just as we have gotten used to life without penny candy,..., so I think, given time, we will also get used to the phrase "a nickel saved is a nickel earned."

