**Informative Speech Outline**

**General Purpose:** To Inform

**Specific Purpose:** By the end of my speech, my audience will know about the origin of sharks, the behavior of sharks, and three myths about shark attacks.

**Thesis:** There is evidence that sharks have had longevity on our planet, sharks are highly regarded creatures because of their anatomical features, their intelligence, and their migration patterns, and that shark attack myths often exaggerate the frequency and nature of attacks.

**I. Introduction**

A. **Attention Getter:** Today I am going to talk about the first thing you’d think about if you were stranded in the middle of the ocean. Not food or water, but sharks, most likely. You’ve probably heard dozens of stories about shark attacks, but do you believe all of them? Do you really think if you were face-to-face with a shark something awful would happen?

***Dramatic, brief pause***

B. **Why the topic is important:** Perceived as ferocious and frightening, sharks are some people’s worst nightmare to encounter. Many people don’t realize they have served an important purpose for centuries by balancing our oceans. Sharks have been incorrectly perceived as dangerous to humans.

C. **Credibility Statement:** I have been studying oceanography and biology for three years. Last year, I visited the Shark Institute in Princeton, New Jersey.

D. **Thesis/Preview main points:** For the next five minutes, I'd like to share three important points about Sharks: that there is evidence that sharks have had longevity on our planet, that sharks are highly regarded creatures because of their anatomical features, their intelligence, and their migration patterns, and that shark attack myths often exaggerate the frequency and nature of attacks.

E. **Transition:** Let’s begin with sharks’ history.

**II. Body**

1. **First main point:** There is evidence that sharks have had longevity on our planet.

1. **Supporting evidence:** Sharks existed even before dinosaurs.

2. **Supporting evidence:** According to the Shark Savers researchers’ website, the oldest trace evidence of sharks are scales that are about 420 million years old.

3. **Supporting evidence:** Modern sharks began to appear about 100 million years ago and have continued to evolve

4. **Transition:** In addition to being ancient, sharks are also highly regarded creatures.

B. **Second main point:** Sharks are highly regarded creatures because of their anatomical features, intelligence, and migration patterns.

1.**Supporting evidence:** Sharks are very intelligent and have similar “brain-to-body” mass ratios as mammals and birds. This ratio takes into account complex measurements that quantify intelligence in all animals.

2. **Supporting evidence:** harks migrate in groups with an average cruising speed of 5 mph and can average a maximum speed of up to 12mph.

3. **Supporting evidence:** My third point may be shocking to many of you. Sharks have the ability to smell a drop of blood from hundreds of meters away.

4. **Transition:** Something else that may be shocking is that shark attacks on humans are actually extremely rare.

C. **Third main point:**  Shark attack myths often exaggerate the frequency and nature of attacks.

1. **Supporting evidence:** According to Brian Handwerk, a writer for the National Geographic News, the U.S. averages 16 shark attacks each year, only two of which are fatal (Handwerk)

2. **Supporting evidence:** According to the Florida Museum of Natural History's International Shark Attack File, “While sharks kill fewer than 20 people a year, their own numbers suffer greatly at human hands. Between 20 and 100 million sharks die each year due to fishing activity”

3. **Supporting evidence:** Out of 480 species of sharks, only three species of sharks are responsible for the vast majority of fatal, unprovoked attacks on humans.

**III. Conclusion:** Cue Ending: In conclusion…

1. **Restate/paraphrase thesis:** Sharks are misunderstood and are very fascinating if you look past the infamous stories that surround them.
2. **Summarize your main points:** First, I informed you on the evolution of sharks.Second, told you about the anatomy of sharks and their role in the oceans. Third, I showed you statistics that illustrate how rare it is for a shark attack to occur.
3. **Exit Line : *Leave your audience with something to think about or a call to action***: Remember what President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!” I hope you have enjoyed my lesson on sharks, and please don’t allow your fear to prevent you from enjoying our oceans.