**Informative Speech Outline**

1. **Introduction** 
   1. The Orca, or more widely known as the Killer Whale, is an animal that has pulled the interest of people all over the world.
   2. The orca population is depleting rapidly.
   3. If more people knew the facts about these creatures they would feel more passionate about saving the species.
   4. Not only am I an animal lover myself, but I also come from a large family of animal lovers as well, my dad is a veterinarian, so I’ve always felt extremely compelled to help animals.
   5. Orcas are dying in the wild, being treated terribly in captivity, and if more people knew how similar they were to human beings they would feel strongly about trying to help save the species from extinction.

**Now I’m going to talk about how the Orcas are being effected in the wild.**

1. **Body** 
   1. Orcas are now unsafe in their natural habitat due to the effects from the human race.
      1. Historically, the Killer Whale was hunted by commercial fisheries. In the past decade institutions were put in place to prevent this from happening. However, this didn’t stop the commercial fishing and hunting of the Orca’s, as other whales, as seen on Animal Planet’s “Whale Wars”.
      2. The pollution of the ocean is main killer of the Orcas currently. Things such as the many oil spills, lack of prey due to overfishing, encounters with fishing equipment, and even whale-watching can be detrimental when not done the correct way.

**I just told you about the Killer Whales situation in the wild, I want to tell you about what’s happening to them in captivity.**

* 1. The famous Orca exhibit and Killer Whale show has been a popular attraction at SeaWorld since the 1960’s, bringing families from all around to see the animals perform. Back then, SeaWorld’s primary initiative when bringing the Orcas into captivity was to preserve the species and educate the public, when in reality the animals are being handed a death sentence.
     1. Orcas are large animals whose natural instinct is to swim for miles on end. While the enclosures are larger than your average swimming pool, they are nowhere big enough for the space that this large animal needs. This causes the animal to often get depressed and float stagnantly. In males, it will cause their large dorsal fin on their backs to become limp.
     2. The average life expectancy for an Orca in captivity is 30-40 years. This isn’t including the multiple Killer Whales who have died, such has the dozens of still born babies, as well as the Killer Whales who have died from injuries in captivity.
     3. Orca’s from different part of the oceans speak different languages. It’s called their song, because it sounds like they are screaming. SeaWorld will often put multiple whales together who don’t speak the same language. This can cause a lot of tension between the animals, such as fights. These fights can result in fatal injuries. For example: In 1989, a female Orca named Corky bled out internally due to a fight between her and another female named Kandu.

**Since you know more about this animals dire situation now, I’m going to give you some information on just how similar Orcas are to human beings.**

* 1. What people don’t know is how similar Orcas are to human beings.
     1. Similarly to humans, the orca can live up to 80-90 years. Around age 50-60 female orcas go through menopause like your average human female.
     2. They have brains that can weigh up to 15 pounds, which is about five times the weight of the human brain. When an orca brain is put through an MRI machine, it shows that the lobes of the brain that process emotion which proves that they are not only emotionally complex, but even more so than a human being.
     3. The human brain’s neocortex is the part of the brain that is responsible for conscious thought, higher level thinking, language and spatial reasoning. An orca also has this, and it is just as much if not more developed than that of the human brain. This is why different Orcas from different parts of the ocean speak different languages, similar to humans who are spread across many different continents have different dialects.

1. **Conclusion (Keep this label on your outline. Like the introduction, this section will now be broken into parts instead of being full-text.)**
   1. So, let’s review. The Orcas are dying in the wild, they are being anything but protected in captivity, and if more people new the real facts about an Orcas similarity to a human they would want to contribute to save them.
   2. I’m going to leave you with a question I want you to ask yourself. How would you feel if you mom, dad, best friend, child etc. was locked in a cage for no reason for the rest of their lives?

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