Sample Artifact Speech

1. Introduction
   1. Attention Getter – Have you ever looked at someone and made a judgment about them before you even got to know them?
   2. Reason to Listen – Most people form their opinions of others based on appearance or their first impression.
   3. Credibility Statement – I have thought a lot about how if we all learned a little bit more about each other’s past, present and future, we might be able to find new friends, or interests we didn’t even know we had in common.
   4. Purpose – Today I am going to tell you about three items that represent me, and how each of those items will help you get to know me better.
   5. Preview of Main Points –
      1. First I will tell you about how these ski gloves represent my past.
      2. Next I will tell you about how this apple represents my present.
      3. Finally, I will tell you about how this baby bottle represents my future.

Transition – Now that you know what the three items I will be talking about are, let me explain how these ski gloves represent my past.

1. Body
   1. First Main Point – When I was a freshman in high school I wanted to learn how to ski.
      1. Support 1 – Not knowing what I was getting myself into, I signed up for the ski team, instead of the ski club. The members of the ski team participated in two races every week and already knew how to ski.
      2. Support 2 – My first practice I was very embarrassed, my skills were not nearly as developed as everyone else, and I wanted to quit right away. My assistant coach pulled me aside, and saw that I was struggling. She offered to help me catch up, and work with me individually after the regular practice.
      3. Support 3 – I slowly began to improve, and spent many hours working on my form and technique. Although I was still behind my teammates, who had been skiing since they could walk, I began to get my confidence.
      4. Over the next four years, I developed a passion for racing. My skills improved and I was eventually named the team captain. My parents bought me these racing gloves and told me they were proud of me for sticking with it, when they knew how hard it was for me.

Transition – Now that you know why these racing gloves are a link to my past, let me explain how this apple is a link to my present.

* 1. Second Main Point – As you may know, I am a teacher at Fitzgerald High School, and an apple seems to be a universal symbol for teachers.
     1. Support 1 – The apple symbolizes the knowledge that teachers provide to the students. Over the last ten years, I have been providing knowledge and insight to students in both public speaking and TV Production.
     2. Support 2 – The apple as a symbol of knowledge can be traced back to the apple that Eve gave to Adam from the tree of knowledge. For me, the apple represents the Fall, when teachers and students go back to school, there’s a crisp chill in the air, and everyone is excited for a brand new school year.

Transition – Now that the symbolic apple has been explained, I bet you can probably guess what this baby bottle represents.

* 1. Third Main Point – My husband and I have a three year old daughter named Riley. We hope to eventually add a little brother or sister to our family.
     1. Support 1 – My family is one of the most important things to me, and it holds my future in many ways. Not only do we hope to expand our family, but we hope to watch our family grow and change over the years, just as my daughter has grown from a baby bottle to a sippy cup to a regular drinking glass.
     2. Support 2 – Family is important to all of us, and it is hard to imagine a future without also imagining what your family will look like at that time. You may not always be able to tell by looking at someone if they have a large family, or a small family, but once you get to know them, you can’t help but learn how their family affects who they are.

1. Conclusion
   1. Restate Purpose – Today I intended to explain my past, present, and future, and why they may not be apparent at first glance.
   2. Review Main Points
      1. Today I explained how this ski glove represents my past triumph.
      2. I also explained how this apple represents my present responsibilities.
      3. And finally I explained how this baby bottle represents my future family.
   3. Return to Attention Getter – In the end, it is important to take the time to get to know people before you make a judgment about them. Find out how their past, present and future affect who they are, and you never know, you just might find a new friend, or at the very least find something you can talk about.