Persuasive Speech

I. Attention

Alright, first of all, what response would you have after hearing the word “BACTERIA”?? EEEWWWWWWW!!!!! Get rid of it with antibiotic soap!!!

Nowadays, antibiotic products exist everywhere. We use antibiotics to fight against bacteria, so hard to create a “bacteria as free as possible” environment.

However, do we really need no germs?

ANTIBIOTIC, separating ANTI and BIO, means to kill life. People have made no mistake in giving this name, because we are really trying to kill life with antibiotics…… to kill ourselves, with this potential human killer. Just like this piece of minced meat in the picture with strengthened E. coli bacteria within, from a cow which we gave too much antibiotics. It could be killing us the next minute it’s swallowed.

Need: Antibiotic resistance is a serious problem that could lead to terrifying consequences such as stronger diseases. Therefore it is very crucial for us to take action to prevent this crisis from worsening any further.

To start with, I’ll first talk about the current situation, then following the factors that causes antibiotic resistance and the effects that would lead to if no improvements are made.

II. Satisfaction 1

Many of us haven’t yet realized the severance of this issue, so let’s take a look how bad the situation that antibiotic resistance has caused.

(a) Antibiotic resistance, according to the CDC, occurs when “bacteria change in some way that reduces or eliminates the effectiveness of drugs, chemicals or other agents designed to cure or prevent infections” (Antibiotic resistance, 2006, P. 1).

(b) In fact, a lot of bacteria have already gained various antibiotics resistance, and also bring great problems to us. For example, according to a journal article from Science, E. coli was “unaffected by six of eight antibiotics” in the year of 1997 (Morell, 1997, Par. 5), which reveals the possible scary antibiotic numbers after 9 years, in 2006.

(c) Here are the problems. A case study from the journal Health Facts mentions about an outbreak of virulent strain called Clostridium difficile which causes severe diarrhea
and even fatalities. Clostridium difficile has developed resistance to antibiotics while general use of antibiotics could promote overgrowth of this bacterium (Napoli, 2006).

(d) The mechanism to which bacteria acquire resistance is the same in any situations. From a Seattle Times news article, “a variety of the usually harmless E. coli bacteria called O157:H7 causes an estimated 73,000 cases of food poisoning in the US every year” (Haney, 2000, Par. 2), which is due to the strengthening of bacteria from antibiotic resistance. So this is another case that proves the seriousness of the problem.

**Transition:** Knowing the severance of the drug resistance, the following are the factors that cause this crisis.

**III. Satisfaction 2**

(a) For patients like us, we always insist on getting antibiotic prescription from doctors, hoping the antibiotics would be more powerful in curing their illness, even though they are having non-bacterial related infection such as cold (“Emerging trends”, 2005, 2).

(b) In the medical field, doctors, physicians share the same responsibility of antibiotics overuse as patients. An article from the journal Formulary reports that in the US and Canada, among 100 million courses of antibiotics prescription annually, over 50% of these are unnecessary” (“Emerging trends”, 2005, 2).

**Transition:** The overuse of antibiotics doesn’t exist only in medical field but also in agricultural farming. And this relates to the actual food that we eat.

**IV. Satisfaction 3**

(a) According to a scholarly journal written by Goldman, E. who works in the Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, New Jersey Medical School and International Center for Public Health, “most of the antibiotics produced in the US are fed to farm animals routinely as ‘growth promoters’, and to facilitate ‘factory farming’” (Goldman, 2004, P. 1).

(b) In fact, according to an analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) mentioned in the article, over 84% of the antibiotics produced in the US were given to animal agriculture, as seen on the graph, and most of these antibiotics were used for non-therapeutic purposes (P. 2). This shows how much antibiotics we overuse
nowadays, were a lot of them are even not for curing diseases. The overuse of antibiotics which are fed to farm animals actually trains bacteria to gain antibiotic resistance. While strengthened bacteria could directly lead to food-borne pathogens in meat like E coli. O157:H7 which could poison us.

V. Visualization

If the problem of antibiotics resistance continues uncontrollably, in the long run, this would lead to more difficult-to-treat infections and untreatable infections. Our strongest antibiotic might also lose its effect on most of the bacteria. Worldwide resistant bacteria would also exist as people travel from country to country around the world. At the end, the one important figure would climb skyward – mortality. Our use of antibiotic might end up killing ourselves gradually.

VI. Action

It doesn’t matter if anyone of you are daydreaming in any previous parts I’ve mentioned, but this part, stay awake. To prevent the crisis of antibiotic resistance from running off the cliff, we can surely do something. In the broad aspect, there should be more education on appropriate drug use. While individually, it is important for us to control ourselves from over consuming antibiotics, stop having thoughts of taking antibiotics if you’re having a cold, because cold is a non-bacterial infection. Think twice when you buy medicine in drug stores, ask your doctor when he/she prescribes antibiotics, is this drug useful? Do I really need to take antibiotics? Remember, not all drugs we take are useful to us, some might even bring contradictory effects. We really need to start to think rationally on appropriate antibiotic use, because in the worst case scenario in our near future, even a common flu can be incurable and every bite of meat can be fatal.
Reference:


