**Valerie Romero**

**Title:** Earthquake strikes Haiti

**Topic:** Earthquake of 7.0 magnitude that hit Haiti on January 12, 2010

**Purpose:** To inform my audience about the events that occurred in Haiti.

**Thesis Statement:** We are still struggling to learn the full extent of the devastation from yesterday’s earthquake. (Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon)

**INTRODUCTION**

**Attention Material:** Yesterday January 12, 2010 at approximately 5 pm an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 struck just south of Haiti’s capital, Port au Prince. This massive earthquake caused great damage to both inside and around the capital and affected other nearby cities as well.

(**Transition:** Haiti is a country who has struggled.)

**BODY**

1. It has experienced previous natural disasters.
2. At the end of 2008, four hurricanes flooded whole towns, leaving many people homeless.
3. Haiti is considered the poorest and most disaster prone country of the Western Hemisphere.
4. Eighty percent of Haiti’s population lives under the poverty line.
5. Many people live in tin-roof shacks.
6. The United Nations is sending our experts and supplies to the Caribbean nation, while stressing the urgent need for food, water, search and rescue teams and medical help. ("Un rushing aid," 2010)
7. Major damage is being reported in the capital of Port Au Prince.
8. National Palace was destroyed.
9. Ministry of Justice destroyed.
10. The headquarters of the United Nations mission was seriously damaged.
11. “We are still struggling to learn the full extent of the devastation from yesterday’s earthquake.” (Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon)
12. Every hour counts in this situation.
13. United Nations troops have been working to reach those who are trapped under the rubble.
14. Many of our United Nations staff members remain unaccounted for.
15. Our United Nation agencies have been working around the clock to provide urgently needed assistance to the victims.
16. We, the United Nations have been notified to expect “serious loss of life.” (Simon)
17. Not only has the United Nations played a big part in Haiti, but the United States has also devoted significant humanitarian support to Haiti. (Simon & Marc)
18. Involved in Haiti commercially and politically.
19. Large United Nations peace keeping missions have been created and successfully have increased the capability of controlling crime.
20. “Has help aid many organizations aimed at raising the country’s dismal health and education levels.” (Simon & Marc)
21. We, the United Nations have a head start in relief operations.
22. World food programme
23. United Nations Children’s Fund
24. United Nations Population Fund
25. United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund

**CONCLUSION**

**Summary statement:** “There is no doubt that we are facing a major humanitarian emergency and that a major relief effort is required.” (Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon)

**Concluding remarks:** My heart goes out to the people of Haiti who experienced a loss during these devastating times and measures. A great deal of work will need to be done to restore the cities affected by the earthquake. I strongly encourage people to donate towards the relief efforts; every little bit helps. I am very concerned for the people of Haiti and for the rest of the United Nations Staff, during this time of tragedy.

# Bibliography

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