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MS English A

Biography Outline

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Working Title: Biography of Steve Jobs

1. **Hook:** When he was on stage introducing the next iPod or iPhone, wearing his trademark black turtleneck and jeans, Steve Jobs was highly recognizable.
 - a. The public had grown accustomed to the setup.
 - b. **Set up the thesis:** Jobs was a pillar in technological innovation while maintaining a private life that kept people wondering who the Silicon Valley man really was.
 - c. **Thesis:** Steve Jobs was an American businessman and co-inventor of Apple, Inc., whose upbringing, religious conviction, and out-of-the-box ideas about education made him a billionaire.

2. **Childhood/Adoption/Family:** Jobs was born on February 24, 1955, to a single mother in San Francisco and placed for adoption with Paul and Clara Jobs (Isaacson 3).
 - a. His birth mother was unable to care for him and decided adoption was best.
 - b. Jobs made public statements throughout his life about how grateful he was to be adopted and how much he loved his parents.
 - c. He met his wife, Laurene Powell, in the late-1980s and the two married in a Buddhist ceremony in Yosemite National Park in 1991 (Isaacson 45).
 - d. They went on to have three children, Reed, Erin, and Eve (Isaacson 50).

3. **Religion:** After doing a few drugs in college and taking a spiritual meditation trip to India, Jobs was introduced to Buddhism.
 - a. Impact of meditation
 - b. Personal influence from a Tibetan monk
 - c. Friendships with other Buddhists
4. **Education or lack thereof:** Jobs dropped out of Reed College in Portland, Oregon, after deciding it was a waste of time (“Why Jobs Left College,” 2008).
 - a. He had been a part of computer clubs in Silicon Valley and dabbled in homemade computers throughout the late-1970s (Proffer 69).
 - b. He also valued arts and literature, which influenced his study of people and how they want to learn, and therefore, compute.
 - c. The first mass-produced Apple computer was the Apple II (Isaacson 125).
5. **Conclusion:** Steve Jobs was a pioneer in the computing world, and his list of credits stretches from movie screens to the first handheld MP3 player.
 - a. He could’ve suffered setbacks when his personal life took a seemingly negative turn, but he always managed to learn from life events and continue innovating.
 - b. With the support of his family and a team of engineers, Steve Jobs built a billion dollar company with products used by millions of people around the world.