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Informative Outline

Topic: The Academy Awards

General Purpose: To Inform

Specific Purpose: To inform the audience about one of the most prominent award ceremonies in the world

Thesis: From its history, the design and naming of the Oscar statuette, the nomination rules to some records of it, there are many interesting information to say about the Academy Awards.

1. Introduction
2. Attention Getter: Here are the nominees for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role: Anna Hathaway, Rachael Getting Married; Kate Winslet, The Reader; Melissa Leo, Frozen River; Meryl Streep, Doubt; Angelina Jolie, Changeling. And the Oscar goes to… Pearl Chen, Crazy Woman.
3. Reason to Listen: Due to the Academy Award is one of the most magnificent as well as influential appraisal in the film industry, people are supposed to have the basic knowledge of it.
4. Thesis Statement: From its history, the design and naming of the Oscar statuette, the nomination rules to some records of it, there are many interesting information to talk about the Academy Awards.
5. Credibility Statement: We’ve been enchanted by the background knowledge of the Academy Awards for a long time and have done some research on the Internet.
6. Preview of Main points:
7. First, we will talk about the history of the Academy Awards.
8. Second, we will discuss the naming and the design of the Oscar statuette.
9. Third, we will let you know about the nomination rules of the Academy Awards.
10. Finally, we will tell you some records of the Academy Awards.
11. From its history, the design and naming of the Oscar statuette, the nomination rules to some records of it, there are many interesting information to say about the Academy Awards.
12. Origin (History & Design and Naming of the Oscar)
13. History

Academy awards given out in Hollywood are known as Oscars. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) give the prizes out every year. It started in 1929. The venue remains Los Angeles. Different facets of shooting a film are given recognition, including directing, acting, screenwriting, costume design, etc.

1. Naming of the Oscar

The root of the name Oscar is contested.

In its earliest years (1929-1933), the award was simply called “The Statue.” So how did it get the name Oscar? There are four possible stories so far.

1. First, in 1931, when Margaret Herrick, the Academy’s librarian and future executive director, first saw the award, she exclaimed, “It looks just like my Uncle Oscar!"
2. But, it is also reported that Walt Disney called it by the name Oscar as early as 1932.
3. However, in 1934, a columnist attributed the invention of this nickname Oscar to himself, for he used the name “Oscar” in referring to the Best Actress award to Katherine Hepburn.
4. Finally, the best story of all is that when the actress Bette Davis received her first Academy Award, she took a glance at the little gold man, and said something like, "It looks like Oscar's bottom!" (She was referring to her husband, Harmon Oscar Nelson.) His later wife, Anne Nelson also agreed to it. And eventually the name Oscar became the official name of the Academy Awards by 1939.
5. Design of the Oscar Statuette
6. The statuette is a naked knight with his hands gripping a sword, which is made of gold-plated britannium, some kind of compound metal, standing on a reel of film with five spokes. The five spokes each represent the original branches of the Academy: Actors, Writers, Directors, Producers, and Technicians.

Transition: So we are now going to talk about some nomination rules of the Academy Awards.

1. Nomination
2. Voters
3. The voters consist of the members in Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) with the number of about 6,000.
4. All AMPAS members must be invited to join by the Academy Branch Executive Committees.

Transition: How about the nominated films?

1. Rules
2. A film must open in the previous calendar year, from midnight at the start of January 1 to midnight at the end of December 31, in Los Angeles County, California. (except for the Best Foreign Language Film)
3. For example, the 2010 Best Picture winner, The Hurt Locker, was actually first released in 2008. Because it did not plays its run in L.A. until mid-2009, so it did not quality for the 2009 awards.
4. Records
5. Most awards
6. Film
7. [*Titanic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titanic_%281997_film%29) *(1997)* (11/14) won 11 Oscars out of 14 nominations, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Costume Design and Best Music, Original Sound and Best Visual Effects, etc.
8. [*The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings:_The_Return_of_the_King) *(2003)* (11/11) got 11 nominations and then won them all, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Art Direction-Set Direction, Best Makeup, Best Writing, Adapted Screenplay.
9. Overall
10. [Walt Disney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney) won the most Academy Awards, with 26 (22 competitive, 4 honorary)
11. Disney also won the most Oscars in one year, 4.
12. Big Five winners: Three films have received the so-called Big Five Academy Awards (best picture, director, actor, actress, and writing)

*The Silence of the Lambs (1991)*

Transition: Next, we continue to focus on individual performance.

1. Most acting nominations or wins
2. [Meryl Streep](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meryl_Streep) holds the record for most Academy Award nominations of any actor (male or female) with 16 and has won it twice: Best Supporting Actress for [*Kramer vs. Kramer*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kramer_vs._Kramer) in 1979 and Best Actress for [*Sophie's Choice*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophie%27s_Choice_%28film%29) in 1982.
3. [Katharine Hepburn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katharine_Hepburn) holds the record for having won most acting Oscars, with 4 (all for Best Actress).
4. Conclusion
5. Review of main points:
6. Today, we talked about the history of the Academy Awards.
7. Then, we discussed the naming and design of the Oscar.
8. Later on, we told you about the nomination voters and rules.
9. Finally, we talked about some records of the Academy Awards.
10. Restate thesis:

From its history, the design and naming of the Oscar statuette, the nomination rules to some records of it, there are many interesting information to say about the Academy Awards.

1. Closure:

Since the Academy Award is a prominent and influential award ceremony, we need to have some basic knowledge of it. After our informative speech, we hope you all have known more about the Oscar and then develop interest toward it.

References

Wikipedia—Academy Award

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award>

Brand Naming Origins: Academy Awards 'Oscar'

<http://www.brandingstrategyinsider.com/2010/02/brand-naming-origins-academy-awards-oscar.html>

List of Academy Award records

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Academy_Award_records#Most_awards>

Internet Movie Database

<http://www.imdb.com/>