

Focus: Writing a graduation speech

Agenda:

Graduation Speech workshop!

next class (for those here) we will work on the speeches (revising them)

Friday → final due date for speeches  
(turned in google classroom)

We will present speeches NEXT WEEK

Homework: Write a rough draft of your graduation speech!  
Due next class, in google classroom (typed).

P.U.N.C.H. is short  
for **P**ersonal, **U**nexpected, **N**ovel, **C**hallenging,  
and **H**umorous – the elements that give a  
speech its spice.

A successful speech will have elements which make it accessible to ALL GRADUATING STUDENTS, yet be inclusive, and specific to our school and this particular year. The ideas you choose to talk about should share a wisdom that applies to all graduating students yet have its foundation in moments which are specific to our school. (Like writing the intro paragraph for your essay!)

Begin with a brainstorming of ideas:

A great speech begins with a brainstorming session. Start by asking yourself: What have you gained from the experiences of high school?

What successes did you experience?

What is the most important lesson you learned from challenges at school?

Brainstorm about the future:

What kind of challenges might you encounter in the next phase of your life?

How have your past school experiences prepared you for those challenges? Write down your thoughts and ideas as you consider your school experiences.

Identify some success stories you can share with the audience.

## Choose a theme!

By choosing a central theme and unifying your ideas around that theme, you can ensure that your speech doesn't ramble and touch on too many topics. This makes your speech more impactful and memorable to your audience.

Possible themes?

growth - personal, professional, spiritual  
life lessons  
ending a chapter  
new possibilities / journeys  
independence / responsibilities  
community  
change / progress  
exploring boundaries  
opportunities for success

## Writing it down:

All good stories have a beginning, middle, and end!

Your speech will be the same.

Grab your audience's attention at the start. Think

**PUNCH**

Tell your story

Tie it all together (show how your story and theme connect together and how those ideas connect with your audience).

## Thankful

Your speech needs to begin by addressing the audience and thanking them.

Your speech needs to end the same way it began!

Thank the previous speaker for introducing you.

Introduce yourself with your name

Share a motivational quote and share how it connects with your classmates' experiences at school

Share a relevant story that brings the class together and gets them excited about their future

Take time to point out some good advice for the years to come

*Wisdom or advice*

Encourage your classmates to remember the good times at your school

Finish by recalling the motivational quote from before

Call your fellow students into action: leave them with an inspiring sentence encouraging them to go out and make a difference

Thank the audience for their time

