

Frederick High School  
Graduation Speech & Music Tryouts  
Presentation by Mrs. Stup, Mr. Templeton, & Mrs. Brawner



## **GRADUATION SPEECH**

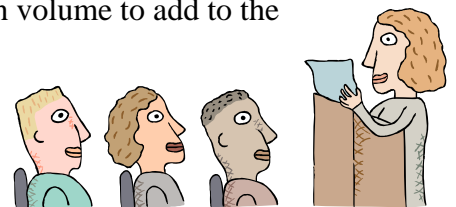
Typically, we have a student speak at the Message to the Graduates Ceremony and/or Graduation. This is a chance to address your class, sharing with them your last thoughts and inspirations. When you try out, you are expected to have your speech already written. You will be judged based upon the quality and content of your writing and your delivery. Some hints follow.

### **The Writing**

- Pick a topic that will appeal to audience. Think about where this speech will be given. You want to connect with them in some way. Don't be specific to just you and your group of friends. Try to connect to all members of the senior class.
- Consider your theme or purpose. What are you trying to accomplish? What important point are you trying to make?
- Consider your tone. What attitude does the speech convey? Is the use of humor consistent with that attitude?
- Consider the structure of your speech. Have a clear beginning, middle and end that the audience can follow.
- Convey your ideas in a logical manner and use evidence to support your point.
- Use repetition but don't be overly repetitive. Use parallel structure if appropriate.
- Consider the vocabulary of your speech carefully. Remember your audience.
- Use statistics and quotes sparingly.
- Use especially strong transitions.
- A unifying element is helpful in speech writing. Consider one metaphor or image that pulls your speech together?
- Have an interesting introduction to your speech—tell a story, pose a question, tell a joke, etc.
- Long, complicated sentences may lose your audience.
- Avoid clichés!!! Be original!!!
- Your target time is 5 minutes.
- Think about and write this speech well in advance.

### **The Delivery**

- Your dress and appearance should convey the impression you wish them to.
- Volume—we have to be able to hear you. Consider changes in volume to add to the effectiveness of and interest in your speech.
- Inflection—avoid monotone.
- Pace- This isn't a race! Use appropriate speed and don't be afraid to vary the speed depending on the part of the speech. Sometimes pauses are also effective.
- Articulation—Pronounce all words correctly and clearly. Avoid slang unless it is an intended part of your speech. Avoid fillers (Um, well, like, etc.)



- Body Language- Stand straight but maintain a relaxed posture. Movements and facial expressions can add meaning to the speech. Eye contact is a must. Don't be too dependent on the text.
- Enthusiasm is also a must.
- To help with delivery, practice this speech multiple times before you try out!

### **The Bottom Line**

- If you are seriously interested in speaking at graduation or the message, start thinking about and working on your speech now!
- If selected, please understand that your speech is still a work in progress. You will be required to make necessary revisions and to practice it after school quite often. You will also need to stay after during the week of graduation practice.

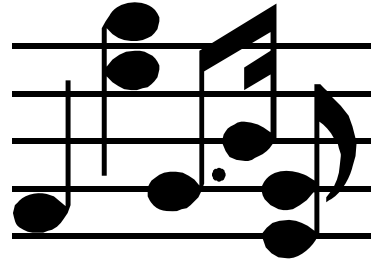
### **MUSICAL SELECTION**

Typically, we have a musical selection at the Honors and Awards Ceremony, Message to the Graduates and/or Graduation. (This varies depending upon the year.) When trying out for a musical selection, have a piece selected and come prepared to present it. Having the music to accompany your voice helps. Choose a piece that is appropriate for these ceremonies.

During the musical selection tryouts, you must be prepared to answer some questions:

- If you come in as a pair or group, are you willing to work with others or alone or to be split up in some other way?
- Are you willing to switch your music if the judges deem it not appropriate?
- Who/What will do the instrumental during the ceremony? (Pianist? CD of music?)
- If you come in alone to tryouts, are you willing to pair or group with others if the judges ask you to?

Finally, if you are selected for the musical piece, remember that you are expected to practice after school with an appointed coach. You are also expected to stay after during the week of graduation practice.



### **PRESENTATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

The presenter(s) for the distinguished alumni is responsible for reading from a script to introduce those who have graduated from Frederick High and have had success in life. Clear speaking, being calm under pressure, and dedication are a must. To try out for this position, you will be given a random biography to read. As with the graduation speaker, you are expected to meet with Mrs. Stup after school and after graduation practice to work on your delivery.