

## TITAN GRADUATION SPEECHES

We commend you for your interest in speaking at commencement exercises. Selection as speaker is a distinct honor which you and your class will always remember.

All graduating seniors are eligible to be a graduation speaker. Selection will be based on the following judging standards for the ONE speaker selected by the committee after auditions:

All candidates must adhere to the following timeline: the try-out is a **LIVE** try-out **IN PERSON**. **YOU MUST BE THERE TO BE CONSIDERED.**

Thursday **May 8** (lunch)

ORIENTATION –1108

Monday, **May 12** (9:00 am)

MANUSCRIPT DUE – 1108

**7 copies** of a typed  
manuscript due to Mr. Mooney

60% SPEECH CONTENT:

Originality; suitability; organization

30% SPEAKING SKILLS:

Voice and diction; style; body action

10% SPEECH LENGTH:

No less than two minutes; no more than three minutes

Monday, **May 12**  
(3:15-)

**LIVE AUDITIONS - 1108**

Presentation of speeches to the  
selection committee in 1108.

Please  
be there promptly at **3:15** to check in.

By **May 19**

Speakers chosen will be notified.

Students who audition need to know:

Selected speaker(s) will rehearse LIVE with Mr. Mooney at least 2-3 times before graduation day. Please keep in mind that the audition committee may ask a speaker to slightly change the organization, content or emphasis of a speech to fit the occasion. These “fine tunings” are left to the discretion of the speech coach, Mr. Mooney. No poems or songs are permitted in the speech. However, you may quote a small portion, or include an allusion to such works. (See notes below on copyrighted information.)

You might do one or several of the following to prepare the content (60%) of your commencement address:

Review the accomplishments of the senior class.  
Show appreciation to the faculty, staff, and community. Express faith in the future, perhaps discussing the hopes of the calls and the challenges ahead.  
Speak of the advantages of a high school education at Tesoro.  
Include quotations, personal experiences, and memorable stories. Uphold a tradition of dignity and pride for accomplishments many have anticipated for years.  
Be self-deprecating and self congratulating; this is not about you – it's about your whole class.  
Offer some wisdom.

**Be sure to incorporate the source of information in your text if you quote or refer to ideas from books, articles, movies, television, or other copyrighted materials!**

How I recommend you go about writing this kind of speech:

1. Think about what you know already.  
(About speeches in general, about speeches you've heard and that were memorable, about graduation speeches in particular that you've heard, and about the requirements for this speech, etc.)
2. Decide how you will gather information.  
(Hold conversations; conduct interviews, surveys, or experiments; read; recall personal experiences.)
3. Record information on 3x5 cards  
(Quotations, evaluations and facts, statistics and examples.)
4. Organize your information  
(Shuffle your 3x5 cards and outline the body of your speech. You may find it effective to speak your ideas into a tape recorder before you write anything on paper.)
5. Practice out loud.  
(Rehearse the body of your speech several times with your outline only. Only then, decide how to begin and how to end your speech.)
6. Write your manuscript.  
(Use your outline, or transcribe what you've recoded on tape.)
7. Rehearse your speech from beginning to end without stopping, using your outline, not your manuscript.

8. When you are familiar with your speech, reduce your outline to key words, and put those on ONE 3x5 card.

Practice, practice, practice!

SPEECH CONTENT: Originality, suitability, organization

60 points

Is there an original and fresh approach to the topic?  
Is there use of figurative language as well as concrete language?  
Are examples used to enrich the subject?  
Are illustrations related to the topic?  
Are examples specific enough to communicate?  
Is proper credit given to quotation or subject material borrowed from others?  
Is there a proper introduction, a main body of the speech, and a summary or conclusion?  
Does the speech show unity of thought?  
Does the speaker stay on topic?  
Are analogies or metaphors extended throughout?  
Does the information flow directly to the audience?

SPEAKING SKILLS: Voice and diction; style; body action

30 points

Does the voice detract from the content?  
Is proper inflection utilized?  
Is the speech easily understood?  
Do the words used fit the occasion?  
Is the language used appropriate?  
Are the sentences succinct?  
Are the sentence and paragraph transitions smooth?  
Does the speaker have eye contact with the audience?  
Is the speaker's posture alert?  
Do his movements and gestures enhance or detract for the content and delivery?  
Is the speaker too dramatic?  
Is the speaker sincere and enthusiastic?

SPEECH LENGTH:

No less than **two** minutes; no more than **three** minutes.  
10 points.