

2021 Stuyvesant Student Graduation Speaker Competition Guidelines & FAQ

Eligibility Requirements:

- You must be planning to attend the graduation ceremony in-person at Arthur Ashe Stadium on June 25, 2021
- If you submit to the competition, you must be willing to deliver the speech during graduation (keep in mind the large venue)

Submission Instructions:

- The speech must be submitted using the [form here](#) before **Friday, May 28 at 11:59 pm EST**

Speech Requirements:

- The speech should last between five and seven minutes
 - In text form, this usually ranges from 750 to 1,050 words
 - However, we strongly recommend that you practice giving the speech before submitting it to see how long it would take for **you** to give it
- As the speeches will be judged blindly, **DO NOT include any personally identifying information in your speech (such as your name)**
- You may not use any profanity, offensive language, or other rhetoric that is inappropriate in a school environment
- Please remember that you will be giving this speech at a graduation and to the entire Stuyvesant community – this includes seniors, families, faculty, and the administration
- While writing and editing, please honor all aspects of the Academic Integrity Policy
- You have complete creative freedom in regards to the content and style of your speech

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who will be reading my speech and determining the winner of the competition?

The selection committee for the Student Graduation Speaker Competition will be made up of the Coordinator of Student Affairs (Mr. Polazzo), the Senior Caucus Co-Presidents (Katerina Corr and Ayala Sela), the Student Union President (Julian Giordano), and two additional members of the Senior Caucus. The members of the committee will be reading the speeches without knowing the identity of the authors.

2. What are you looking for in a good graduation speech? What should I write about?

We are looking for a speech that is, above all, unique and memorable. It is critical to remember that this speech will be given to the senior class at graduation – try to think about the type of speech you'd like to listen to at such a celebration! However, the content of the speech is ultimately up to you – we recommend taking a look at the resources in the “Recommendations for Getting Started” section to begin brainstorming.

3. What sorts of literary elements can I include?

You may include any literary elements you would like, including (but not limited to) spoken word, original poetry, quotes, and anecdotes.

Recommendations for Getting Started:

- Check out graduation speeches from the past at Stuyvesant and other high schools
 - The Class of 2020 Virtual Graduation video can be found [here](#) (student speeches were made at 45:18 – Vishwaa Sofat, 50:47 – Jackie Lin, 56:16 – Victoria Wong, 1:02:03 – Hana Kim, and 1:05:54 – Zeynep Bromberg)
- Consider the type and overarching theme of a speech that you, as a graduating senior, would like to hear at graduation
 - Think about the experiences we have all shared as Stuyvesant students and members of the Class of 2021
- Here are some websites we found that detail some additional speech-writing tips:
 - [10 Tips for Writing the Best Graduation Speech \(Herff Jones\)](#)
 - [Graduation Speech Ideas and Tips \(Shutterfly\)](#)
 - [How to Write a Great Graduation Speech](#)