



MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE
2017 Commencement
Student Speaker Application

Name (As you want it to appear in the program)

First Middle Last

Address Number Street City Zip

Phone Number ID Number

Major GPA Best time to reach you

Attach outline along with a final draft of the Five Minute speech you plan to present if selected.

Title of Speech (as you want it to appear in the program)

The information listed below is used to write a bio about you in the program.

High School and Year you graduated:

Plans after graduation from MJC:

Community and Campus Involvement:

General information you would like included in the program about yourself:

Name of parents, spouse, and or children you would like to acknowledge:

You will be required to audition before a Selection Committee. Date and time will be arranged.

Application Deadline is Monday, February 27, 2017 at 5p.m. Return to Arts Humanities and Communications Division (East Campus Performing Art Center, Room 205)

Commencement Address Information

The commencement speaker praises, inspires, and congratulates a graduating class. Since the commencement audience contains family members, friends, instructors, administrators and staff of the graduates, they usually want to hear glowing statements of praise about the graduates' achievements. Commencement speakers acknowledge how both the graduates and members of the audience contributed to the success being recognized that day (Gamble and Gamble, 2000).

Your goals when designing your graduation speech are as follows:

1. Magnify the significance of the graduates' accomplishments.
2. Unify the audience by affirming common values exhibited through the graduation.
3. Understand that you must represent all the graduates' experiences at MJC, not only your own.
4. Help the audiences identify with the event you are all experiencing.

All commencement addresses will be unique, however, there are a few guidelines and pitfalls to avoid when designing your commencement address.

Guidelines:

1. The speaker should begin his/her speech by congratulating the graduates.
2. Recognize what the graduates have accomplished at MJC. Focus on universal successes and challenges most graduates have had to face, i.e. navigating the campus, passing a test etc.
3. Acknowledge people in the graduate's lives that have helped her/him achieve their goals, i.e. teachers, parents, grandparents, children, friends, spouses, etc...
4. The speech should contain inspirational messages that challenge graduates to focus on the future and roles they will play in the months and years ahead.

Pitfalls:

1. Do not concentrate your speech on isolated incidents that are particular to your experiences at MJC.
2. One or two personal stories can be used to make reference to a larger issue, but try to unify the audience with common references.
3. Remember there are many unique individuals sharing the commencement experience with you. You should always be conscientious of who is in the audience and not to belittle anyone.
4. Commencement addresses should avoid clichés while emphasizing the accomplishments and promise of the graduates.

Feel free to contact a communication studies faculty member for assistance. They cannot write your presentation for you, but can offer invaluable coaching advice.

Good luck!