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**The Graduation Speech: Farewell And Hello**

**By Analeese Burnabaker**

Anyone who has ever graduated from anything – high school, college, or perhaps a program lasting only a few months – has sat through a graduation ceremony. No doubt that ceremony was filled with a variety of elements. Perhaps special music was played, perhaps someone shared on the accomplishments of the graduates, and maybe you had to share or present part of the ceremony. One element that is present in almost every graduation ceremony is the graduation speech.

There are two main types of graduation speeches that are often presented during graduation ceremonies. First, a common type of graduation speech is given by the valedictorian of the graduating class. If you were privileged to graduate at the top of your class, then you know this speech very well. This type of graduation speech is primarily an avenue upon which a member of the graduating class gets to share memories and advice for their fellow graduates. Students share laughter and sometimes tears over the memories that the graduation speech details. The speaker gives advice and encouragement for the graduates that are about to leave one phase of life and enter a new one.

A second type of graduation speech often found at a ceremony is given by someone outside of the graduating class. Similar to the valedictorian speech, this kind of graduation speech is meant to give encouragement, wisdom and advice for those entering a new phase of life. The speaker is usually someone of importance, a business owner or a person of prominence in academia. The graduation speech usually includes a combination of humor and seriousness.

Do you have the task of preparing a graduation speech for an upcoming ceremony? If so, it does not have to be as hard as it first sounds. Begin by brainstorming a list of ideas. What do you want to communicate to your audience in the graduation speech? Do you want to primarily use humor, or will you go for a more serious speech?

Once you have brainstormed plenty of ideas for the graduation speech, begin making an outline to organize your thoughts. Do not include anything outside of the main theme that you want to communicate. If there is a time limit on your graduation speech, be sure to keep your speech within that limit. Then just be creative and have fun with it. Make the graduation speech you give memorable by being uniquely you. You know how you can best relate to the audience, so do it. Be yourself and

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show your personality in the graduation speech. People will be more interested if they think you are being authentic in your words.

So, whether you are about to attend a graduation ceremony and hear a graduation speech or whether you are about to present a speech, enjoy it. Graduation speeches do not happen every day. They only happen on graduation day.

Analeese Burnabaker has given many graduation speeches in her day. She loves to consult with people who are about to speak at graduations or any other big events. Discover more at [www.allgraduationspeech.info](http://www.allgraduationspeech.info).

<http://allgraduationspeech.info>

### **On Picking The Right Graduation Song**

**By Martin Stoleman**

When I was graduating from high school and then from college, there were many details that I was trying to think through and many decisions that I was trying to make, not the least of which was what graduation song I would choose to represent my transition from one season of life to the next. You see, among my family and friends it is tradition for anyone graduating to choose a graduation song to be sort of the theme of their accomplishment and their place in life.

If you have never heard of this, then I'll suggest that you quickly make a graduation song part of your traditions surrounding graduation. Allow me, as an expert on the subject, to enlighten you with some suggestions about how to go about choosing the appropriate graduation song for you.

First of all, keep in mind the significance of choosing the perfect graduation song. Why is it so significant? Because it is not every day or even every year that you will graduate from something. In fact, most people only experience one or two graduations in their lifetime, so don't downplay the importance of the situation. Instead, realize how significant it is that you are about to graduate and therefore take seriously the privilege of choosing a graduation song that will represent your achievement.

A perfect graduation song is one that incorporates two main things. First, any good graduation song should reflect some on the past and how it has affected you up to this point. The worst thing that you can do is to pick a graduation song that means nothing to you and that you've never heard of before. The wise way is to choose a song that you are familiar with and that really means something to you.

A second important element of a good graduation song is one that says something about the hope and purpose you have for your future. Graduation is, after all, not just the end of a season but it is also the beginning of a whole new season of life. So choose a graduation song that reflects how you're feeling about moving forward into something new. No matter what season of life you are ending, you are also about to begin a new and great season, so let that be reflected in your song choice.

A graduation is a small but significant tradition that I think everyone should take part in. What a great

way to symbolize a part of your journey and to represent your thoughts for moving on. So choose a great graduation song today! It is one decision that you'll never regret.

Martin Stoleman is a career counselor who works mainly with students dealing with the transition of graduation. He encourages all students to find a great graduation song. See

<http://www.coolgraduationsong.info>

for more details on the right song for you.



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