
My Graduation Speech

I'd like to start my speech off by giving a heartfelt thanks to all of the people who have helped us get here today. Administration, teachers, parents, and friends, thank you all so much for your support. We could have not done it without you.

Now that I'm done with the cliché greeting allow me to move onto the cliché inspirational talk about the future. But first let me preface it with my bewilderment of why I'm standing up here talking about our future. I got the highest GPA in my class, so what? That doesn't mean I have any more wisdom than anyone else in my grade. In fact, if you want a more educated guess of what our futures will be like, you should probably ask someone in our class that hangs around people rather than textbooks. Since I'm not the person best equipped to talk about the future, I figure that I might as well make some money while I'm up here, so I would like you all to know that this speech is brought to you by Coca Cola.

Now, onto the future. Our graduating class has been fighting long and hard, clawing our way up from the bottom of the class ranks, spending so long dreaming about being the top dogs that we almost didn't realize it actually happened. And now, finally, after climbing up to the top of the totem pole... we get knocked straight back down to the bottom.

High school is a funny thing. In my senior presentation, I compared it to a blind date. Just like in freshman year, you start out awkward and anxious. But as the date progresses, you start to feel more comfortable. You say to yourself, "Hey, this girl's pretty cool!". You start to get attached. Then at the end, you reflect on it and say, "That wasn't so bad, but I think I'm going to date her sister instead."

We don't know what's in store for us. I have no idea what paths we will end up taking, but I do know that whatever path it may be, Onalaska has prepared us. Our high school is truly unique. How many other schools can say their principal chased a bull away from their parking lot? If you want to do a sport, you just do it. No tryouts, you're a part of the team. At Ony our teachers really know us, and we know them. We've created a tight-knit community here that you will be hard pressed to find anywhere else.

I don't have any advice to give to our class. I know each and every person up there, and I know for a fact that they are all capable of being successful. Success does not necessarily mean being famous or a millionaire, but to do what makes you happy.

Good luck class of 2015. I can't wait to see you all at our 10 year reunion, a little wiser and a little wider.