

Graduation Speech

Thank you (name of person who introduced you) .

[*Look around the room.*] Graduates . . . family members . . . and staff, it is an honor to be part of this celebration, the (number) graduation ceremony at (name) School.

It is such a pleasure to share in the intensity of emotions filling this (auditorium, stadium) as you who are graduating close this chapter of your life's story.

Parents, you are probably wondering where the years have gone. As you marvel at your sons' and daughters' accomplishments, it doesn't seem that long ago when these young adults we honor today were toddling off to start kindergarten.

Of course, living through those years between kindergarten and graduation may have seemed like an eternity for the students . . . and for some parents as well.

[*Look at graduates.*] You are the Class of 2010. You graduate in a century still in its infancy . . . at a time in history when our world is dealing with enormous challenges . . . but at a time when the opportunities created by those challenges have never been greater.

You are technology natives . . . born and educated in a technological world that was only found in science fiction stories when many of us in this room were in school. You Twitter and tweet . . . read books and news on line . . . and your electronic social networking has shrunk the known world.

You are the generation that will take the technology of today to new and dizzying dimensions.

You are the ones who will bring solutions to environmental concerns . . . global warming . . . conservation of natural resources . . . and development of alternative energy sources . . . the issues that my generation is only now identifying.

And who knows? There may come a time that some of you live on a space station circling the earth.

Someone among you may find the cure for cancer . . . or other debilitating afflictions. [*Pause.*]

So (*tonight/this afternoon*) you are poised to start a new chapter of your life's story.

Armed with the skills and knowledge you've attained . . . I can tell you are eager to tackle this next phase, whatever it might be. For some, college or technical schools will be your next stop. Some are heading straight to the workforce. Some have chosen military service.