

## Sample Speech

Welcome Board of Trustees, distinguished faculty, administration, family, and friends; and especially, the graduates. We are soon-to be the 77th graduating class of San Joaquin Delta College. And speaking about 77 years, at times it felt as if we were in an old Saturday afternoon adventure movies...like Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark. The journey of battling other students to find a parking spot the first month of the semester, traversing the caves of Delta College for miles just to find your first class, and then getting lost in the waste lands because you forgot where you parked. This is where today's technology finally paid off...setting off your car alarm! It was all worth it in more ways than one. Who needs a gym membership when you've got a class in Holt, Shima and Cunningham all in the same day, all on the fourth floor? And it would have been nice to have a big ball of string to go along with the campus map. I'm sure many of us felt like explorers, when they tie a string to a tree or rock where they start, and hold onto it as they go, so they never get lost or forget where they came from. Most of the time, I remembered where my classes were, but it would have been handy to have the string to take me back to my car. Either that, or Delta should consider valet parking. Whether we struggled to find a parking spot, stressed out over getting assigned a good registration date or sweated over being waitlisted, we have all overcome those obstacles and feel like we have actually found Indiana Jones' lost ark., which has brought us to our college graduation this evening. As we anxiously, but so proudly walk across this stage, receive our diplomas and await the moment to switch our tassel's, we will have just begun laying down the foundation to our lives. We are prepared to build vertically on this foundation; our only way from here is up.

We have not gotten this far alone. We've all had many individuals help us reach our goal. First, our esteemed professors and counselors. (maybe clap for them??); counselors like Ms. Robinson. She is head of the Puente Project and during my first year at Delta, she took many of us students to various CSU and UC campuses, but on each trip, she made me feel as if the entire trip was centered around me. Because of her encouragement and support, I am transferring to a four year university. Si se Puede! Another professor, Dr. Graham: thank you for opening up the doors for me in Speech and Debate. I applied to give this speech just thinking that it was worth a try, not actually thinking that I would be the commencement speaker tonight. And I dedicate most of my public speaking enthusiasm to Dr. Graham for setting the bar and helping me exceed it. And finally the group of people who are the happiest this evening, no, not you graduates, your families. They know we are one step closer to getting off the family payroll. Take a moment to look in the stands at who surrounds you right now; look at your family and friends (if you can find them). They are proud to watch us make our dreams become our reality. They have witnessed us grow to become the college graduates that we are, and will continue to support who we aspire to become. Family and friends, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your guidance and contribution to each of these graduates' lives. Without you, today's ceremony would still be an infant dream.

Our foundations are solid, our audience is proud, our futures are bright, and each of us are college graduates. Returning back to Indian Jones, it is time for us to become real explorers, explores of life. With our knowledge and experience from Delta serving as our big ball of string, never getting lost or forgetting where we came from. Congratulations to my peers, the 77th graduating class of San Joaquin Delta College; we did it!