



Writing a Speech

Exercise 1

Задание финала олимпиады «Ломоносов» 2024/25, 11 класс, вариант 10

You are asked to make a graduation speech at your school graduation ceremony.

Theme: Ш

The aspects of the theme you mention must match the occasion, resonate with the audience and reflect your personal feelings and thoughts, values and experiences.

Write your speech in **at least 250 words**.

A *graduation speech* is more than just a ceremonial tradition—it's a speech that combines a heartfelt send-off, a final farewell and a celebration of achievement all rolled into one. These speeches are typically delivered by a selected speaker at the *commencement*, or graduation ceremony.

A graduation speech serves as a symbolic bridge between your school journey and the adventures that lie ahead. It's a chance for speakers to reflect on the accomplishments, challenges and growth experienced throughout the formative years. And most importantly, it's an opportunity to share some wisdom, inspiration, and encouragement as graduates embark on their next chapter.

And while writing a commencement speech may seem like a daunting task, breaking it down into basic steps can make the process more manageable and enjoyable.

You must use the following **components** in your speech:

1. **Greet Your Audience.** Say what you feel standing in front of your teachers, fellow students, families and friends. Grab the audience's attention and introduce your theme. Then, outline the main points you want to cover in the body of the speech.
2. **Share Your Journey:** Reflect on your time in school, highlighting challenges you overcame, lessons you learned and accomplishments you achieved.

3. Inspire with a story: Share an inspiring anecdote (a short account of something that has happened in real life), or a life lesson that has shaped you and can resonate with your peers, helping them in a similar situation, or a joke that can inject some optimism in your audience.
4. Express Gratitude: Thank teachers, family and friends for their support and guidance throughout your academic journey.
5. Offer Encouragement: Provide motivation and encouragement to your fellow graduates as they embark on their future endeavors. Powerful closing remarks reinforce your message and leave a lasting impression. Use a quotation or a proverb capturing the message of your graduation speech.

Use the following **recommendations** to write a memorable commencement speech:

- Consider the demographics of the graduates, their interests, experiences and the significance of the occasion.
- Write in a conversational tone, as if you're speaking directly to the graduates, and use concise language.
- Be sure to include transitions between sections to help the speech flow smoothly and keep the audience engaged.
- Check your speech for clarity, coherence and impact. ctp. 8
- Cut out any unnecessary or repetitive information, and refine your language to make it more concise and compelling.
- Create a pace and rhythm enabling you to hold the attention of your audience and guide them through the points you are making. You are writing a piece of an oratory genre – it is meant to be spoken out loud in public – the sound of the words and structures you choose matters.
- Make sure your speech is well-balanced and engaging from start to finish.
- Use examples to illustrate each point.
- Be authentic and genuine.

The *purpose* of a graduation speech varies depending on the context and the goals of the speaker. But generally, it serves several key purposes:

Celebrate: Graduation is a big deal, right? So, the speech is a way to celebrate all the hard work and sweat equity that graduates have contributed towards their student experience. And its graduation is a huge achievement worth celebrating!

Inspire and Motivate: Many graduates feel nervous and apprehensive about what comes next after graduation. As happy as they may be to finally be graduating, many students feel a sense of confusion and discouragement about the future. Graduation speeches are meant to motivate and encourage the graduating class as they wrap up their student experience. It's all about making them feel confident and full of hope as they look towards their future.

Reflect: Remember all those fun times you had in school? Even the monotonous and routine hustle of being in school will become times you can look back on, joke about and reminisce on for the rest of your life. Graduation speeches offer a chance to look back on the graduating class memories and once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Bringing Everyone Together: Graduation is a time for friends, family and teachers to come together and cheer the graduating class on. The speech helps everyone feel connected and proud of what's been achieved.

Closure: Graduation speeches offer closure to the academic journey, providing a symbolic farewell and a sense of completion to graduates as they bid farewell to their alma mater.

Legacy: Graduation speeches leave a lasting legacy for graduates, offering timeless wisdom, inspiration, and guidance that they can carry with them as they embark on their future endeavors.