

Good evening honored guests, administration, teachers, friends, families, and most importantly my class. The class of 2017. The Class of Lit we would say.

Well, we made it guys. I know you want me to rush through my speech but I'm going to annoy you guys just a little bit more before you get your diploma.

Before I really get into it though, I would like everyone to thank Ms.Ceria and Ms.Mucha for their 4 years as our class advisors, if it weren't for them nothing would've been as well crafted and strategically planned. Not only have they coordinated every event for us, but they have also spent countless days after school with my fellow officers and I, planning and completing everything that needed to get done. They chose to take on this job so we, as a class, should feel truly appreciative of their hard work dealing with us, because you guys didn't make it easy for them.

Another quick thank you before I move on is to my other class officers, Dondre, Mariah, and Oscar. You guys were the best officers ever. You are all creative, kind, and funny leaders. Everyone should be excited to see you all do amazing things.

Besides my acknowledgements, for the past few months I've been thinking, "How on Earth do I start a graduation speech?" Do I start with a joke? But what if no one laughs? Do I start with a quote, or is that too cliché?

These were all the things I was dreading while writing this speech and nearing the end of the year. Not because I don't want to speak in front of all of you and show off my public speaking skills and dashing good looks, but because I don't know the right thing to say. How am I supposed to give advice and all this encouraging wisdom when I'm in the same boat as all the kids in front of me? But I figured why not start from the beginning and try.

Four years ago we had no idea what we were in for. We had no idea our freshmen year we would all turn our backs on the seniors, that we would get second place in the dance off or that Tyrese was going to throw a pie in his face and run out of the gym. We had no idea sophomore year I was going to win musical chairs and the class officer election, or that we would win dance off, or that we would make a pretty shady spirit week shirt. We had no idea Mr.Sweeney was going to harass us daily to put our ID's on, or that the librarians would always kick us out of the library. We had no idea that in junior year we would win the sword game or we would again the next year. We had no idea that junior year was the biggest struggle when trying to plan prom and that I was going to subtweet Mason on the senior twitter account. We had no idea senior year that we were going to get those god awful parking passes or have to take Ap Exams outside of the school, or that I was going to hit Makayla's truck right after the AP Lit exam because of it. We didn't know that Kevin was going to streak in his speedo during the Ninja Warrior Games, or that we would win spirit week, play in the Assassin water gun game, have a cookout in the parking lot, or throw a massive party on our senior skip day-sorry mom and dad. We had no idea the past 4 years were going to be such a blast until now, when all these moments are just becoming memories.

But what we did know was that everyone would ALWAYS say, "better enjoy it, high school flies by, it will be the best years of your life." After experiencing these 4 years I can admit, they have been pretty fun. I've become best friends with people I met in highschool and I have felt the most proud and accomplished than ever before. I have been class president (and I have been doing a better job than Trump!). My high school experience was like the ones you see in

movies. I would have to say these weren't the best years of my life, but rather, they have been the best years of my life *so far*. I say it's the best 4 years **so far** because I don't want anyone here, including myself, to walk away from this graduation thinking- "Well, now it's all over." Who says they are over? They are simply just getting started.

We have so much of our lives to live. Why limit your best years to these four years specifically? You have so much left to give to this world. So much more to offer and it is all thanks to your 13 years of school. Some of you will become doctors, lawyers, military personnel, construction workers, biologists, and most importantly I'm going to become the next Oprah Winfrey. Catch me on tv in a couple of years.

But on a serious note, I do truly believe each and every single one of you have the potential to be whatever you want in this life. This class is full of the craziest, smartest, and kindest humans I have been blessed to meet. My parents told me as a kid, "if you want to shovel elephant poop for a living go ahead and do it, but if you are going to do it I expect you to be the best elephant poop scooper this world has ever seen."

Take my parents advice. Be the best thing this world has ever seen. Only you can limit yourself, so don't. Just take my parents advice (because Lori and Billy Laughlin are the bomb.)

Which brings me to the end of my speech where I promised a couple of shoutouts. I'd like to thank my whole family for being the best family there is. Thanks mom and dad for accepting all my friends as your own, for never yelling at me when I came home late, and for always listening when I cried about science classes. Thanks to my siblings Erika and Hunter for being the only nice siblings I know of and for guiding me through highschool. Special thanks to my girl Kathy who made coming to school a little bit easier every day since she's a ray of sunshine. Thanks to my friends I have had since elementary and middle school, like Megan, Stephanie, Briana, Sloan, Colby and Ella. You guys showed me that no matter how long you don't speak, a true friend will always know what to say right when you get back. Thanks to my best girl friends I've made in high school which are Jaclyn and Jocelyn, can't wait to dorm together. You guys have made my life way more colorful. Thanks to my mains Danny, Kelly, Connor and Alex who are the greatest friends I could have because we will never stop singing 90's hits together on our way to Taco Bell. Thanks to my very best friend for the past 6 years, Oscar for dealing with me and being the greatest "special" friend and vice president I could have.

Finally shout out to some teachers! Ms.Bineau- thanks for listening to me cry every year about everything and nothing all at once. Mr.Jasak- thanks for being my favorite english teacher, even though all you do is quote fight club. Ms.Hanna-thanks for being my school mom. Mr.Martin & Ms.Bouyea- you guys are a package deal. You guys were the funniest, realest mentors I could have and thanks Mrs.Bouyea for my car. Mr.Osbourne-thanks for giving advice to all your classes on how to achieve their goals. Some of them may not listen, but I did, and thanks to you I achieved all my goals this year. If it weren't for all you guys, the next big headline would've been "Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class President Drops Out!"

To end off I would like to quote one of the most generic tv show staples of my high school career with a quote from One Tree Hill, "It's the oldest story in the world. One day, you're seventeen and planning for someday. And then quietly, without you ever really noticing,

someday is today. And that someday is yesterday. And this is your life." I hope you all make this life a good one.