

Commencement Student Reflection Speaker Information Session

Monday, February 17

Introductions

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What is the committee looking for?

- Speeches that...
 - Have a clear message for the students
 - Relate to Georgia Tech
 - Represent your class
 - Show originality
- Content that includes something...
 - Audience appropriate
 - Humorous
 - Inspirational
 - Positive
 - Reflective
 - Connected to Georgia Tech

Speech Presentation

- What makes a good speaker?
 - You don't have to memorize your speech
 - Slow down, time yourself
 - You have 2 – 3 minutes
 - Practice – Schedule a session or two with The Naugle Communication Center
 - <https://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu/>
 - Click the “Make Appointments Here” button and then log in using your GT info. If you haven't made an appointment before, you'll need to fill out a profile. After that, you can make an appointment (in person, by video, or written feedback only if you want help with your written draft but not speaking).
 - Rehearsal rooms are available for practicing your speech—email commlab@gatech.edu with your GT ID# and preferred days/times to reserve one between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. or reserve for after-hours/weekend use through the Library here (requires reservation 24 hours in advance): <https://library.gatech.edu/spaces-technology/reserve/clough-rehearsal>
- Videos
 - When filming think about being overly engaging, you want to avoid falling flat and monotone, make it look like you are enjoying yourself!

Speech Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Have a good framework for your speech, a repetitive theme throughout that connects from beginning to end.
- Include inspiration, perhaps a little humor, motivation towards the future while celebrating this moment/achievement
- Make it unique to Georgia Tech
- Use inclusive language

Don'ts

- Talk about how miserable everything was.
- Try to replicate previous speeches.
- Include phrases like “to Hell with Georgia” or mention stealing the T.
- Give a list of 10 things you learned!
- Speak about religion

Timeline and Process

- The deadline to submit is Monday, March 24 at 1:00 p.m.
 - <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/awardsevents/commencement-speaker>
- Video required, submit online when you apply
- If selected as a finalist, you will be asked for your availability for the in-person audition
- Committee reviews Tuesday, March 25 through Thursday, April 3
 - The committee consists of students, faculty, and staff
- Everyone will be notified Friday, April 4 (finalist or not)
- Auditions in-person on Monday, April 7, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 - Student Center, 3108 Student Engagement Conference room
- If you are selected to audition but unable to attend, your submitted video will be played in your absence
- Everyone notified after of auditions – whether selected or not

Questions?

- More information:

- <https://commencement.gatech.edu/reflection>
- <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/awardsevents/commencement-speaker>