Commencement Student Reflection Speaker Information Session

Georgia Tech

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 Naugle Writing and 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 wcc@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!

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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

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Timeline and Process

- The deadline to submit is Wednesday, Nov. 11, 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 Nov. 12 through Nov. 19
  - The committee consists of students, faculty, and staff
- Everyone will be notified
- Auditions in-person on Monday, Nov. 23
- 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

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Questions?

- More information:
  - https://commencement.gatech.edu/reflection
  - https://studentlife.gatech.edu/awardsevents/commencement-speaker

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