

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER APPLICATION

FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION REGION III

Student's Name _____

THE APPLICATION IS DUE ON Friday, December 1st, TO Mrs. GRACE JOHNSON.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS CHOSEN, A TYPED COPY OF YOUR DRAFTED SPEECH IS DUE Monday January 1st 2018.
TO Mrs. GRACE JOHNSON.

Selected candidates will then be required to give their preliminary speech to a panel Thursday January 11th. (times to be announced) at Country Meadows Baptist Church. Each candidate will be given 20-30 minutes for conferencing with panel for critiquing constructive feedback.

FINAL speeches will be given on April 12th(times to be announced) at Country Meadows Baptist Church with the top two selections being awarded the honor of being the commencement speakers.

Speeches should be 3 – 5 minutes in length.

Thank you for your interest in speaking!

SENIOR SPEAKERS

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

1. **Sincerity:** Senior speakers should mean what they say and say what they mean. In other words, they must themselves believe in what they are saying. Credibility is for certain the number one priority of any effective communicator.
2. **Knowledge:** Senior speakers must speak knowledgeably. It must be evident research and preparation went into their speech. Speakers should demonstrate a quiet confidence in the knowledge of their material if they are to demand the respect and the attention of the audience.
3. **Organization:** Senior speakers must have a very distinct beginning, middle and end to their presentation. A clear message begins with a definite purpose and proceeds in a single direction to the end. They must exhibit the ability to share their ideas, their thoughts, and their opinions in a well-organized manner keeping their audience in mind at all times.
4. **Nonverbal Communication:** Senior speakers must possess the ability to utilize their verbal and non- verbal communication skills to send a congruent communication to the audience. Tone, vocal inflection, gestures, kinesics (body movement) eye contact, and other artifacts (i.e. dress, jewelry) prove key in providing an audience with a believable message.
5. **Language:** Good speakers choose their words carefully and strategically for maximum effect. They must utilize language to create the effect they desire from their audience.
6. **Goal Setting:** Senior speakers must know exactly what impact they want to make upon their audience. They must have excellent insight as to the audience make-up and “play” to that particular audience in order to achieve their goal.
7. **Content:** Senior speakers must share an original, worthwhile message proving appropriate to the situation.
8. **Delivery:** Senior speakers must enthusiastically deliver their message with confidence. Again, confidence is key in any speaking situation.

To stir your ideas & thoughts, here are a few suggestions: Thank you to parents, Faith, giving and belief, All I ever need to know, I learned at home, My life as a home school student, Humorous anecdotes regarding myths about home education, Steps to success, A challenge to graduates to carry on the principles learned through home schooling, Interview fellow grads and compose a speech outlining shared experiences and thoughts on home education, Life advice. Past, present and future.

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A) Briefly explain why you wish to be considered for selection as a student speaker at the Commencement exercise for Families for Home Education Region III.

B) Please list any previous opportunities you have had to speak or perform in a public forum or setting. List the activity, your role, the date (approximately), and the number of people in attendance (approximately.)