

Senior Paragraph Best Practices

Due date: November 11

Requirement: Max of 350-400 words (2000 character limit)

- The yearbook is a public document and what goes in must be in good taste and must be consistent with the rules of behavior for Burroughs students.
- No questionable language or representations of questionable language.
- No inappropriate slang or innuendos.
- Special characters are allowed, but no emojis (our program doesn't support emojis).
- If you use a quotation, cite it. Remember, not all quotes are appropriate for the yearbook!
- Remember to thank your teachers from all your time at Burroughs, not just your 11th and 12th grade teachers.
- Remember to keep your paragraphs positive!
- Spell check your paragraph and fix grammar mistakes before submitting it.
- Start working on your paragraph early!

Main take away:

Be appropriate. Err on the side of good taste.

Example 1

This is the end, my friends, of our ride together, but it's true that every new beginning is just some other beginning's end.

I like to consider these past six years but the prologue—all too brief, momentary even—of the chapters yet to come. It's here that much of the context for my life has been written. I've met the people who have and will continue to influence me, and I've lived the stories in the classroom, on the fields and courts, walking through these halls that I will tell decades from now. I leave John Burroughs School ready to embark anew and, all the same, prepared to carry the knowledge of this place to whatever corners of the world I explore. It is a great big world, and I will follow my arrow wherever it points.

I'm grateful for the time I've spent here and I'm grateful to all of the people who have enriched that time. Because of all of you—my teachers, friends, classmates, coaches, teammates, and, of course, my parents—I emerge a better student, a better friend, a better leader, and a better person than I ever could have imagined on that first exhausting day in August of 2012. It's safe to say that I'll remember the names, the faces, the places, and I'll carry the lessons of this community with me evermore. From the small gestures of kindness to the pillars of intellectual curiosity and the beauty of collaboration, I hope to live out the wisdom from which I've benefitted.

To the Class of 2018: We may win, and we may lose. Regardless of what the future holds, we'll never be here again. It sure was fun while it lasted, and I can't wait to see how we change the world. Take it easy.

Example 2

It seems as if it was just yesterday I was walking into the commons for my first time full of nervous emotions. From then until now I've learned you never truly know the value of a moment in time until everything seemingly becomes only a memory. There have been friends I've made that will last a lifetime, knowledge I've learned that will last an eternity, and skills that have been brought out of me to ensure that I am my best self. Burroughs for me has been a place of humbling, a place of finding myself, and more importantly a place where I could always feel safe and secure. I have been pushed by masterminds of their subjects and am very grateful to have been taught by the best teachers and mentors around. Last and certainly not least, I am most appreciative of the time, effort, love, and care my family has devoted to me. Without their love and support none of this would be possible and I am beyond blessed to have such support leading me into the right direction. We have been through it all, thick and then, and they are what help motivate and keep me going in life. Family, friends, teachers, and coaches, all have been the guidance in my life showing me how to strive to be better and how to be a man. I will never forget the life lessons I learned while playing football at Burroughs, showing me just the true meaning of being a leader, both through adversity and high rewards. Through my years at Burroughs I've seen friends come and go, experienced great losses, but all in all I found a home away from home filled with tremendous people who are going to do tremendous things in their lives. I'll always remember my late night drives with Abdullah, my last hoorah with all of my senior football teammates, and my weekly chill out sessions in Forest park with the boyz. That nervous fourteen year old who once was afraid of meeting new people, is now on his way to becoming a man who loves establishing new connections and conquering every challenge that steps in his way. I see nothing but light in my future as well as everyone from the class of 2018.