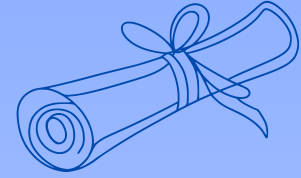


# 2026 Graduation Speech



## Contest



Each year BHS features a graduation speaker from the senior class. Please choose one of the following prompts and write a speech to be included in our graduation ceremony on May 29th. The following parameters are to be followed:

1. The speech must follow one of the four prompts.
2. The speech must be between 2 and 3 minutes.
3. You must sign up if you will be submitting a speech to be given a presentation time slot. Sign Up Link: [2026 Graduation Speech Contest](#). Sign ups will close on Wednesday, April 29th.
4. You must send a copy of your speech to [tonyamccann@burbankusd.org](mailto:tonyamccann@burbankusd.org) no later than Wednesday, April 29th or you will not be given a presentation time.
5. Judging will occur on Friday, May 1st, starting at 2:45pm. Time slots will be assigned on Thursday, April 30th.
6. One speech will be selected to be presented at graduation. You will be expected to participate in graduation and will have additional preparation during graduation rehearsal.
7. If you are selected - your submitted speech may only be edited in collaboration with a Senior English teacher and then all final edits must be approved by Mrs. Freemon.

Prompt #1:

How has being a student at Burbank High School shaped who you are—and who you are becoming?

Prompt #2:

What values did our time as high school students help clarify—and how will we hold onto them after graduation?

Prompt #3:

When life after BHS doesn't go according to plan, what will guide us forward?

Prompt #4:

How do we want the Class of 2026 to be remembered at Burbank High School?

## 2026 BHS Graduation Speech Audition Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
<b>Preparation</b>	Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed.	Student seems pretty prepared but might have needed a couple more rehearsals.	The student is somewhat prepared, but it is clear that the rehearsal was lacking.	Student does not seem at all prepared to present.
<b>Vocabulary</b>	Uses vocabulary appropriate for the audience. Vocabulary is both relevant and engaging to the topic.	Uses vocabulary appropriate for the audience. Vocabulary is mostly relevant and engaging to the topic.	Uses vocabulary appropriate for the audience. Vocabulary is bland and fails to engage the audience.	Uses vocabulary inappropriate for the audience. Vocabulary is monotonous and unoriginal.
<b>Enthusiasm</b>	Facial expressions and body language generate a strong interest and enthusiasm about the topic in others.	Facial expressions and body language sometimes generate a strong interest and enthusiasm about the topic in others.	Facial expressions and body expressions are used to try and generate enthusiasm, but seem somewhat faked.	Very little use of facial expressions or body language. Did not generate much interest in the topic being presented.
<b>Content</b>	Shows a full understanding of the topic and clearly focuses on a central idea/theme.	Shows a good understanding of the topic and mainly focuses on a central idea/theme.	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic, but does not focus on a central idea/theme.	Does not seem to understand the topic very well and does not have a central idea/theme.
<b>Clarity</b>	Speaks clearly and distinctly all of the time.	Speaks clearly and distinctly most of the time	Speaks somewhat clearly and lacks a distinct voice.	Often mumbles or cannot be understood.
<b>Posture and Eye Contact</b>	Stands up straight, looks relaxed and confident. Establishes eye contact during the presentation.	Stands up straight and establishes eye contact during the presentation.	Sometimes stands up straight and establishes eye contact.	Slouches and/or does not look at people during the presentation.
<b>Time-Limit (2-3 minutes)</b>	Presentation is on or under the time limit.			Presentation is over the time limit.