

Name

Mr. Voulgarides and Ms. MacNeil

English IV, Sec

Date:

How can words compel action?
Motivational Speech: Advice from a Senior

Context: As a senior, you have an infinite amount of experience and wisdom to offer our school community. What kind of community do you want WHEELS to be? What would you have wanted to hear as a freshman? How can you use words to both leave a legacy and inspire future community members? What advice would you give to an incoming freshman about how to approach their high school experience?

Target audience: Ninth grade students at WHEELS; someone like *you*.

Task:

Write a motivational speech and accompanying personal video to a current ninth grade student.

Guidelines:

- Have a clear **message**
- Use a clear **organizing structure**
- Use **rhetorical devices** to enhance your message
- Use effective **style and voice** appropriate to target audience
- Be mindful of **presentation** and **craftsmanship**

The competition:

- Create a video speech for an incoming 9th grader
- Students in 9th grade will watch video speeches during English class and crew. Ninth graders will rate effectiveness of your speech using a scoring tool
- The top three videos will show their speeches in a 9th grade community meeting and have an offer to participate in a panel discussion

Possible Exemplar Texts for reference:

- “Pep Talk” Kid President (performed by Robby Novak)
- “Inch by Inch” Coach D’Amato (performed by Al Pacino; from Any Given Sunday)
- “On Being Perfect” Coach Gaines (performed by Billy Bob Thornton; from Friday Night Lights)
- 2012 Wellesley High School Commencement “You’re Not Special” By David McCullough, Jr.
- 2005 Stanford University Commencement “Find What you Love” by Steve Jobs
- 2016 Harvard Graduate School Convocation “Lift Off” by Donovan Livingston

**Curriculum and task adapted from the work of Denise Bruxelles*