

Valedictorian



Congratulations! As you approach the end of your public school experience, it is time to begin our **Valedictorian** selection process. This sheet is designed to give you the information you will need if you wish to apply for consideration for this honour.

What are they?

The **Valedictorian** gives the valedictory address in the ceremony. This is a longer speech (4 - 8 minutes) that should not only reflect on the shared experiences of the graduating class but inspire them into the future as well. The valedictory address should also offer thanks to the various parties that have helped the graduating class achieve their diplomas.

How to Apply:

Eligibility Criteria

You must meet the following criteria:

- You attend school regularly/daily.
- You are a strong and confident speaker.
- You are prepared to write a speech to deliver at graduation to your graduating class.
- You are a well-rounded student and involved in the Auburn school community.

Expression of Interest

If you are interested in applying, please complete and submit the '[Valedictorian Expression of Interest](#)' Google Form by Monday, June 20th at 1pm. Qualifying students will be invited to audition on Friday, June 24 at 1pm. Our auditions will be held in Student Services, where you will be asked to read a version of your speech to the panel.

What you need for your audition:

All students applying will need to prepare a valedictory address. To audition, you will give a version of the speech you would like to give on graduation day. A panel of judges made up of staff members will listen to the auditions and will choose the **Valedictorian** from these auditions.

Some general pointers:

- While you ought to make your speech personal and based on your experiences, keep in mind that it is not about you.
- Try to find the place in between being so general that your fellow graduates can't relate your speech to their experience and being so specific that only a select few can relate to your words. Be inclusive.
- Sometimes it is useful to include inspirational quotations in a valedictory address. If you do this, be sure to choose something that can seamlessly be incorporated into your speech and something that isn't too common.
- Always avoid being too cliché or including broad sweeping clichéd statements (i.e. do not say things like, "We are all destined to be the great leaders of tomorrow," or, "This is the time of our lives").
- Show appreciation for those who have helped you and your classmates.
- Mention shared memories of time at Auburn over the last three years.
- Discuss Auburn's and your class's role in the greater community.
- Share hopes for the future.
- This should be a genuine message from the individual giving the speech, including humour and emotion.
- The speech should have a definite structure, beginning with a clear introduction section, followed by the main body, and ending with a conclusion that highlights the main themes of your speech and ends with the appropriate emotions.
- Feel free to research what has been done in the past, but the most successful speeches at Auburn's graduations have been generated within the individual writing them and have not overly relied on the ideas of others taken from the Internet

What will the judges be considering?

The judges will choose the successful applicant based on a consideration of four main criteria:

- Content – How well will the content of the speech resonate with the intended audience? Does the speech adhere to many of the pointers mentioned above?
- Organization – Does the speech have a suitable structure that flows smoothly and logically from section to section and from beginning to end?
- Delivery – Does the speaker appear to be speaking from a genuine and honest place? Is the speaker's delivery practiced and polished? Do volume, pace, eye contact, tone, and gesture effectively engage and hold audience's attention?
- Holistic effect – Judges will consider the speech's and speaker's intangible overall effect.

Good Luck!!!