

# SPEECH

## OUTLINE

<b>Opening</b>	
<p>Good morning everyone. Before we begin, I'd like to ask you to consider a question. I wonder how many of you jumped out of bed at 6am this morning, enthusiastically ran to the kitchen to eat breakfast and to prepare for the first day at school. Does this sound like anybody here? Can I get a show of hands if what I've described is an accurate picture of anyone this morning? [A moment's pause] Well I wasn't super excited either. However, when I step back and survey the year ahead of me—ahead of us—I have to say that I am filled with at least a modicum of <b>excitement</b>, <b>ambition</b> and, perhaps, <b>trepidation</b>.</p>	<p>Start the speech in a way that grabs attention, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ask a question (“Does this sound like...”)</li> <li>• ask for audience participation (“Can I get a show of hands...”)</li> </ul> <p>Summarise your overall message</p>
<b>Main Body</b>	
<p><b>Allow me to elaborate.</b> I am excited because this is our final year at Peak school. We'll never have it back again. I'm excited because we will have the opportunity to share experiences with each other that we will never get in later life. Once we walk out of these doors at the end of the year, it is unlikely that we will be united as a class again. The pliers of separation will do their job with ruthless efficiency and we will go down our own paths that will not cross again. But before that happens, it's difficult to deny that there are lots of things we can look forward to: the class trip to Ocean Park coming up this October, the annual talent show, the Lunar New Year celebrations. I very much hope that we will be able to create memories that will last a lifetime.</p>	<p>Introduce your main argument and say why you believe it is true, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excited because it's the last year</li> <li>• So we can do things this year that we'll never be able to do again.</li> </ul>
<p><b>But I am not only excited. I am also ambitious.</b> I know that for me this year is the only chance I will get to take my DSE exams and enter university and I have promised myself that I will move mountains to get the grades of which I am capable. That might mean sacrificing time with friends, it might mean exhausting myself in the run-up to the exams, it might mean -- heaven forbid -- giving up video games. But I have determined that I will not waste my time this year. <b>What are your goals? What do you want to accomplish?</b> Let me encourage you to set realistic, but ambitious, goals so that you do not waste your final year at school.</p>	<p>Introduce your main argument and say why you believe it is true, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final year is a time for ambition</li> <li>• Because it will determine our future</li> </ul>
<p>And finally this ambition and excitement are tempered by trepidation. For we ultimately do not know what lies in store for us. We do not know what woes or joys lie ahead. We do not know if we'll fall in love or out of it, pass exams or fail them, achieve our goals or fall short of them. For our lives here as always are pinned on the contingencies of Chance and Fortune. What matters is not so much the cards we are dealt but the way we play them. I would only add that, unlike in a card game, we are all on the same team, so let's work together to help, support and care for our fellow-students to make this year special for everyone.</p>	<p>Introduce your main argument and say why you believe it is true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should be a little anxious</li> <li>• We can't predict exactly what will happen in the future.</li> </ul>
<b>Close</b>	
<p>At the start of this speech I asked you to indicate whether you were excited about coming to school. And whilst I cannot whip you into a frenzy of enthusiasm in a few minutes, I hope that I have said enough to make you realise that this school year is yours to seize, craft and enjoy. Isn't that worth getting out of bed for? Thank you.</p>	<p>Refer back to the opening and end in a memorable way, e.g. use a rhetorical question.</p>