**Speaker:** Brandon Watson

**Speech Type:** Class Graduation

**Speech Preface:**

I assume they will be calling you up to give this speech since it is in a large church. When they call you up to the podium be sure to smile and look out towards the crowd. Remember when giving a speech like this, it is okay to stop through out the speech and gather your thoughts. Keep a nice steady speed, the faster you go the more it will appear you are nervous. Overall it should be a pretty easy speech for you to give since you were in the class along with the other students and most of this will be real feelings that you also went through.

**Speech:**

Good evening everyone, it truly is a pleasure to see everyone here tonight. For those of you who might not know me, I am Brandon Watson the Class President, and to see all the faces out there tonight really is a heart warming feeling. I am sure for most of you out there you are glad that tonight has finally come! That’s right, tonight is GRADUATION, wow who knew it would feel so good to say those words, am I right? Well in the interest of time, I will make this short and sweet, but hopefully I will leave you all with a lasting impression about what each one of the graduates here tonight has gone through and how it wouldn't have been possible with out each and every person in this room.

I think this goes without saying, but literally none of this would have been possible without the families that are here tonight. We all knew getting into this that the 8 month process wouldn't be quick, but I am sure a lot of us didn't expect it to take as big of toll as it did. I mean, I can speak from personal experience where I came home late, spent the entire night studying only to get up before everyone else to head back to class, and for those of you with families to take care of, I’m sure that wasn't the easiest thing to do. We can not thank our families enough for putting up with us at times, for pushing us to keep going and for having faith in us that all this work would pay off. This is a huge thank you to all the families that are here tonight and to the ones that might not be here, but still helped us, pushed us, motivated us to keep going and allowed for us to take the last 8 months all to ourselves so that we could get to where we are today, thank you.

Now, this next group of people might not have been our literal family, but after spending what feels like every waking moment of the last 8 months with them, I feel like they might as well be our family. Our training staff, you guessed it. With out each of them spending day in and day out with us, teaching us, coaching us and pushing us to get better none of this would have been possible. Now, I am sure there were days where we were not always the most pleasant to work with, and to be fair sometimes they weren’t always a pleasure to work with either, but without our training staff, this would not have been possible. You all took the time to work with each and everyone of us, some of us learning faster than others, but yet here we are today. So, once again I must say, thank you.

And finally, yes this one is for us. I would love to get a huge thank you to each and every graduate that is here today. You, only you truly know what you had to put in over the last 8 months to get where you are today. Only you know the countless hours that you spent hunched over your books studying through the long hours of the night to make sure the next day you were ready for everything. I know we have all come from different backgrounds, some of us were bankers, teachers, parole officers and literally just about everything else, and yet, today we are all one together. We have done it. For some of us this has been your childhood dream, for others this is what you found your calling in, what ever it might be, today we can stand a little taller knowing that we have done it. All those nights that you couldn't go out, all those weekends you had to stay home and study, for all the things in the past 8 months that you missed because your dedication to this, well I am happy to say hopefully it has paid off. each one of you can give yourself a pat on the back knowing that you completed this.

Yes, this was honestly a group effort. Between our families who literally were our corner stones, to our instructors who showed us the way, and to each of us, for braving through it all and finishing what we started. Thank you, congratulations and well done. We all share bond now that will not be forgotten.

Congratulations graduating class, this was a job well done!