To what size group will the speech be delivered?

* Large (100+ people…friends, family, donors, key figures)

The speech will be delivered to a group made up of mostly?

* Friends, family, donors, key figures, elected officials, students, invited guests.

Where will the event be held?

* School gym

What kind of speech do you want?

* Combination…I am not a fan of the typical let’s go out in the world and do great things type of speeches. I want to really “hit people in the chest” and somehow teach them a life lesson but at the same time be encouraging to others.

Is there a key person this speech will be given?

* Not really…I guess just the other students that are graduating.

Share information about events or memories that should be included.

* The most influential person in my life is a lady named Lolis. She is what I think of when I think of a woman and I desire to be outspoken and inspirational and radiating like her. When I was an intern at the Untied Nations in 2018, she was my mentor and we went to visit the 9/11 memorial one day. It was quiet but she pulled me over and said, “You are going to be the reason that things like this (9/11 that is…) do not happen again. At this point, I thought I could not do big things since I am from a rural town, but she reminds me of who I want to be and is someone I constantly think about. Being chosen for this was nothing I would ever imagine myself doing. I always think “I shouldn’t have been chosen…why me?” Also, I have never told her how inspirational she is to me…so this is a big thing to include in a speech. I just want to say “thank you for taking me to New York City and helping me combat poverty and lack of quality education on the world stage” and things along those lines. 😊 Somehow include this in my speech introduction? It might be a bit difficult.
* See essay attached in this document for the main message I want to share!

What do I want the audience to think or feel?

* I want them to leave knowing the world is in good hands and I want them to be personally inspired to achieve the best versions of themselves. I want this to be so powerful that I “stab” them in the heart. I want them to see the best version of myself also and not only inspire my graduating class, but my teachers and everyone in the audience.

Is there an action…as a result of experiencing your speech?

* Possibly a standing ovation? I want to have the best speech (better than salutatorian 😊) honestly…best speech they will ever here.

Deadline?

* May 10 is turn in date for graduation prep.

Additional information:

* I think I summed up my experience in the questions above. PLEASE email me if you need anything else! I am sure you do and I have left something out! Let me know! Victoriabrooke2001@gmail.com
* Introduction part: Of course the usual, thank friends and family for support ESPECIALLY my parents for putting their life on hold for 18 years and ensuring I have everything I need and for taking me places and getting me out into the world.
* I want to make this essay the main message. This is the best essay I have ever written. Maybe inspire others to be global citizens.
* Add in the line: “I have traveled all over the world at such a young age. I have seen the absolute worse parts of the world and the most beautiful parts of the world.” (add if you can!!)

Essay I am referring to:

The question they asked turned out to be the answer for me.

Determined to cultivate a better community, I spent my days in Ghana building classrooms and teaching English to school children in the Krobo village. One afternoon, my group went to a boarding school and encountered a constellation of rambunctious teenage girls.

They followed us like paparazzi and we connected by taking selfies. They had intense curiosity about every aspect of our lives, ranging from what time we woke up to the color of our houses. Sooner or later, however, each girl asked me the same question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I had always been intrigued by the complexity of the brain, so my reply was always the same, “a neurosurgeon.” Though I didn’t understand exactly why, from that moment on, the girls worshipped me like a rock star.

Back home and back in school, one of my new teachers approached me in the hallway and asked, “So, Victoria, what do you want to be when you grow up?” Like I said to the girls in Ghana, I replied, a neurosurgeon. Suddenly, however, I began to drown in a pool of guilt.

What I had failed to fully grasp in Ghana was that most young girls in that culture did not have the opportunity to pursue a higher education. Some did not have the opportunity to go to school at all, or even leave their homes. Many were simply relieved to not be enslaved, or worse. The fact that I, a 16-year-old girl, even considered becoming a neurosurgeon was beyond their comprehension and experience.

This revelation refocused my entire approach to humanitarian efforts. Though valuable and critical, teaching English or building schools is The Beginning. Providing opportunities for a better life will mean little if those we try to help do not and cannot understand that opportunity exists. Somehow, I need to convince those in need that a better life is possible, that all their wildest dreams can come true, that they are even allowed to have dreams at all.

I have no delusions that this will be an easy task. Yet, I am now determined that I need to concentrate on this vital issue. I need to educate myself further on the lives of those I want to help, how they think, and do not think. I decided that, no matter what profession I pursued, I would groom myself to be a global citizen.

My experience in Ghana inspired me to apply for an internship at the United Nations, where I shared my experience and views. At the U.N., I have advocated for more educational programs for women and girls in rural areas, and I am hoping they will, in some form, be implemented. To know that there are people like myself, and worldwide organizations, dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls around the globe, has only made me want to work harder for this cause.

Taking it further, as my Girl Scout Gold Award project I combined my vision with execution by designing and publishing a self-taught ESL curriculum to accommodate impoverished areas in the Chiapas Valley of Mexico. That way, the children do not always need a teacher present to enhance their English speaking, reading, and writing skills. Ultimately, the project was able to pull hundreds of young girls and boys out of the cycle of poverty by developing them into more competitive job applicants. I am humbled by their determination to realize their dreams and create a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Through it all, my goal in this arena has now become refined and quite simple: One day I want to ask a girl from Ghana what she wants to be when she grows up and hear her proudly reply, “Neurosurgeon.”