

The art of the Commencement speech

We at First Principles Communication find that commencement speeches are a wonderful source of personal stories from the lives of fascinating people, astute observations about contemporary culture, inspiration, as well as wit and humour.

And, best of all, each spring there is a fresh crop of commencement speeches to enjoy. Here are some of our favourites.

Ellen DeGeneres, comedian & talkshow host

Tulane University, September 8, 2009

<http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=nmznD9TN4XY&feature=related>

Christiane Amanpour, host of ABC's "This Week"

University of Michigan, April 29, 2006

http://www.umich.edu/news/index.html?Vid/ca_sprcom06

VIDEO: <http://www.umich.edu/news/index.html?videos>

Note: scroll down the page to "Spring 2006 Commencement." In 2007, Bill Clinton delivered the commencement address; that video is available as well.

Bono, musician & philanthropist

Harvard University, June 6, 2001

http://www.everything2.com/index.pl?node_id=1211409

Jon Bon Jovi, musician

Monmouth University, May 16, 2001

<http://bluehawk.monmouth.edu/~opa/commencement/jbSpeech.html>

Madeleine K. Albright, Secretary of State to Bill Clinton

Wellesley College, June 2, 1995

<http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Commencement/1995/albright.html>

How to write speeches, research speeches, deliver speeches and more:

<http://www.speechclub.com/>

Gifts of Speech website, a treasure trove of great historical speeches:

<http://gos.sbc.edu/a.html>